

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

Monday, March 24, 2025 / Chaitra 3, 1946 (Saka)

***MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

- (1) **SHRI ARUN GOVIL** laid a statement regarding the need to record and broadcast programmes from Akashvani Meerut.
- (2) **SHRIMATI KALABEN MOHANBHAI DELKAR** laid a statement regarding water and road-related issues of Dadra and Nagar Haveli Parliamentary Constituency.
- (3) **SHRI KHAGEN MURMU** laid a statement regarding the re-development of Airport in Maldaha Uttar Parliamentary Constituency, West Bengal.
- (4) **SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR** laid a statement regarding the need to construct Farrukhabad- Shahjahanpur- Mailani railway line project in Uttar Pradesh.
- (5) **SHRI YOGENDER CHANDOLIA** laid a statement regarding the need to allocate the EWS Flats in Delhi to eligible families under PMAY(U).

* Laid on the Table as directed by the Chair.

- (6) **DR. SANJAY JAISWAL** laid a statement regarding the need to give priority in admission to local students in Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Motihari, Bihar.
- (7) **SHRI HASMUKHBHAI SOMABHAI PATEL** laid a statement regarding the need to construct a railway foot overbridge near Ahmedabad East Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat.
- (8) **DR. K. SUDHAKAR** laid a statement regarding the need to establish a Cooperative Bank in Chikkaballapur district, Karnataka.
- (9) **DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY** laid a statement regarding the need for a comprehensive plan for a pilgrimage circuit by connecting all the religious sites of Jharkhand.
- (10) **SHRIMATI DAGGUBATI PURANDESWARI** laid a statement regarding the need to establish multi-temperature air cargo facilities in all the airports of Andhra Pradesh.
- (11) **SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL** laid a statement regarding the need to establish a 'Rashtriya Arandi Board'.
- (12) **SHRI DULU MAHATO** laid a statement regarding the need to close the discontinued/abandoned coal mines in appropriate manner in Dhanbad, Jharkhand.
- (13) **SHRI RAMVIR SINGH BIDHURI** laid a statement regarding the establishment of World Class Skill University in Delhi.
- (14) **PROF. VARSHA EKNATH GAIKWAD** laid a statement regarding the need to provide free education up to class 12th to children belonging to the EWS Category.
- (15) **DR. NAMDEO KIRSAN** laid a statement regarding the need for

cement concrete paving of dilapidated rural roads constructed under PMGSY in Gadchiroli, Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.

- (16) **SHRI S. SUPONGMEREN JAMIR** laid a statement regarding construction of Railway Station at Dimapur in Nagaland.
- (17) **SHRIMATI SANJNA JATAV** laid a statement regarding the need for procurement of mustard seed in a time-bound manner in Bharatpur Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan.
- (18) **SHRI LALJI VERMA** laid a statement regarding continuity of service of employees appointed on a contractual basis in NTPC, Tanda, Ambedkar Nagar District, Uttar Pradesh.
- (19) **SHRI UTKARSH VERMA MADHUR** laid a statement regarding the need to restore Old Pension Scheme.
- (20) **PROF. SOUGATA RAY** laid a statement regarding reopening of JESSOP and Bengal Immunity Company Limited in West Bengal.
- (21) **SHRI KIRTI AZAD** laid a statement regarding transparent investigation into alleged duplication of Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) numbers.
- (22) **SHRI TAMILSELVAN THANGA** laid a statement regarding the need to review the decision for implementation of a two-shift format for National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test for Post-Graduate (NEET-PG) Examinations.
- (23) **SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY** laid a statement regarding the need for establishment of a Tertiary Cancer Care Centre in Andhra Pradesh.
- (24) **SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV** laid a statement regarding the need to

desilt the Chandan Reservoir in Banka Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.

- (25) **SHRI RAJABHAU PARAG PRAKASH WAJE** laid a statement regarding the need to expedite the release of central share under various schemes meant for tribal development in Maharashtra.
- (26) **DR. D. RAVI KUMAR** laid a statement regarding the need for publication of the report on excavation undertaken at Keezhadi in Sivaganga district, Tamil Nadu.
- (27) **SHRI RAJA RAM SINGH** laid a statement regarding widening of NH-139 in Bihar.
- (28) **SHRI UMESHBHAI BABUBHAI PATEL** laid a statement regarding the need to conduct elections of office bearers for Daman and Diu State Cooperative Bank Ltd. and Fisherman Federation in Daman and Diu.

THE FINANCE BILL, 2025

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY) *moved that* the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2025-2026, be taken into consideration.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR *initiating said:* This Finance Bill is a classic case of patchwork solutions at a time when the nation needs clarity, conviction and decisive leadership. The Government's economic management finds itself in the grasp of deep-rooted structural challenges. We have seen growth targets being

scaled down, double-digit growth is apparently unattainable and the ambitions of maintaining a respectable growth rate of even 6 per cent and above are fading away. Our informal sectors of employment are soaring and dependence on foreign capital inflows to manage the current account deficit is growing amidst the staggering situation where our exports are stagnating and production is not going up. It has taken the Government years together to finally realize that just two per cent of Indians, the hard-working taxpayers, have been really carrying this country on their backs. In the current financial year, corporate taxes have crawled up by eight per cent while individual and non-corporate taxation has soared by 21 per cent. Who else is financing the Government? The Aam Aadmi is financing the Government through indirect taxes, most notoriously GST. Instead of the good and simple tax, India has multiple and confusing GST rates including the highest at 28 per cent but tax revenue still lags at 18 per cent of GDP. In contrast, China has a 13 per cent GST cap but they collect 20 per cent of GDP with it. Also, our system carries the most complex tax slabs in the world. Seventy-seven countries have GST and they impose only one or two tax slabs. This multi-rate structure in our country has only further raised the compliance burden for businesses. Indeed, bifurcating input tax claims based on different product tax rates is a significant hurdle for businesses. Our traditional snacks in Kerala, like Pazhampori, Vada, Ada, and Kozhakatta, face an unfair 18 per cent tax simply because of the absence of an assignable HSN code. With a shelf life of 124 hours, these snacks often go unsold and are discarded, but sadly, their input tax claims are denied, leading to mounting losses. Rs.28.59 lakh crore, in unrealized tax revenue has been sitting untouched in this Finance Bill. GST evasion has doubled to Rs.2 lakh crore already this year. Between 2017 and 2022, high-net-worth individuals left our country to relocate abroad, complaining of tax terrorism. Surely, we need to review not just their effective tax rates, but the manner in which tax demands are made that drives such people away. The Government's attempts to raise money through disinvestment have failed with underwhelming

results. Reports suggest that the PLI scheme will also be allowed to lapse because it has not worked. The Government now relies on the Reserve Bank of India's dividend as a major source of revenue. If the Government is set to forego almost Rs. One lakh crore in direct tax revenue and Rs. 2,600 crore in indirect taxes then the revenue receipts are going to be further squeezed across all these categories. How can the Government claim it will cut the fiscal deficit to 4.4 per cent for the coming financial year? Every time we talk about unemployment, we are faced with the same grim statistics. Reports predict, we need to generate 10 million jobs annually from 2024 to 2030 to keep up with the growth targets, yet the skill mismatch is still glaring. While unemployment is a concern, the assessment of poverty is troubling for a different reason. The NFHS-5 data reveals that about 15 per cent of India's population is multidimensionally poor. Our calculation of poverty levels is still based on the 2011 Census. An outdated dataset is completely unfit for assessing the present socio-economic reality. The hopes of economic growth and prosperity seem to be slipping away as jobs are scarce, wages are stagnant and small businesses are drowning in compliance rules. The five Southern States, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Telangana, are among India's strongest economic engines. They contribute 28.5 per cent of GST. But when it comes to receiving their fair share, they get a mere 15 per cent of the Centre's tax pool. How is this acceptable? By slashing Basic Customs Duty on several items which are shared with States, the Centre deprives States of their rightful revenue. I urge the Finance Minister to have an independent fiscal council to serve as a redressal body, ensuring that the States have a say in how their hard-earned revenue is allocated. Let me turn to my own State because Kerala's share of tax out of the divisible pool seems to be on a permanent downward slide, from 3.8 per cent under the 10th Finance Commission (1980-85) to three per cent in 2000-05. Now, under the 15th Finance Commission, it is down to a mere 1.9 per cent. Rs. 18,000 crore have been lost. It is sinking into debt that has now crossed Rs. 4 lakh crore. Amid this financial crunch,

when the State Government sought Rs.4,500 crore in special assistance to tackle coastal erosion, rehabilitate fisherfolk through the Punargeham project, and modernize fishing harbours, it was given no response. Even Kerala's Rs.1,000 crore request to address human-wildlife conflicts was ignored. While the Centre has earmarked Rs.25 lakh crore for the States, Kerala receives less than Rs.40,000 crore, which is a drop in the ocean. The State also failed to secure a Rs.24,000 crore economic package for the Vizhinjam port project in the current Budget. The Centre's delay tactics continues. Wayanad's landslide victims are still waiting for aid despite the Kerala High Court actually urging the Government for immediate action. From healthcare and infrastructure to livelihood support, Kerala has been systematically sidelined. I have been pleading for help in addressing the severe coastal erosion problem. My own constituency has lost 64 sq. km. of territory to the sea. Key projects continue to be stuck in limbo. 22 AIIMS have been sanctioned across India but Kerala is still waiting. Similarly, the National Institute of Speech and Hearing in Thiruvananthapuram was promised an upgrade to a National University for Rehabilitation and Disability Studies in the Union Budget of 2015-16. There is no action 10 years later. If Viksit Bharat is to come, it will be built by those who are currently unemployed, who have no money to spend, and few opportunities to improve their lives. I urge the Finance Minister and the Government to think about them.

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: Today, the economy of any country is not doing well. But whether it is an international agency's report or an independent report, all reports affirm that India has emerged as a fast-growing economy that has become the world's third-largest economy over the last ten years. Till the year 2014, India's economy was as meagre as two lakh crore dollars. Today, it has become worth four and a half lakh crore dollars during the last ten years. As far as renouncing the citizenship of the country is concerned, I would like to submit that

even in countries like America, and England, the people are renouncing the citizenship of their country. Across the European Union, 33 percent of people have renounced their citizenship. When our Government came to power at the Centre, the tax-GDP ratio was 6.5 per cent. Today, the tax-GDP ratio is around 11.7 per cent. The Union Government has provided income tax relief to the people of the country in this Budget. In the year 1987, 'Minimum Alternate Tax' (MAT) was introduced. However, in 1988, its implementation was discontinued. In the year 1988, the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act was enacted. However, the rules thereof had not been framed under the said Act till the year 2011. During the UPA's tenure, the corporate tax in the country was around 33 percent, and the cess tax was around 38.9 percent. According to the report of 2013-2014, the tax of the 400 largest industrial houses was only 22.3 percent. Until 2014, more than 22 percent of corporate houses never paid any tax in the country. In 2013-14, a revenue of Rupees 5 lakh crore was forgone for all businessmen. There has been a significant focus on the International Financing Service Center in terms of employment. We refused to sign ITA-2 to promote manufacturing. In this Budget, we have taken a significant step to promote electronics manufacturing and startups. There is a significant difference between the Bank's return and the revenue forgone. If taxes are reduced and we officially lower taxes, where would the revenue forgone come from? The honourable Prime Minister is co-chairing the world's Artificial Intelligence committee. Cryptocurrency is not a legal tender. A portion of investment in digital currency should be taxed. The youth of villages and cities are troubled by online gaming and betting. This is a matter to be dealt with by the respective State governments, but the center has made many efforts; however, the Honourable Supreme Court intervened and stated that betting and gaming are different things. Based on this, the Government of India is constrained and cannot do much. We have three to four slabs of GST in our country. What are the reasons behind these slabs? If we need to provide food to the poor or help farmers, there

should be zero percent duty. In 2014, our trade balance with China was 22 percent higher. In 2021-22 and 2022-23, it was -9.67 percent. The Government of India is running the 'Ayushman Bharat' program. Even after promoting generic medicine, India still needs to import better medicines from abroad. For this, the government has reduced tariffs. There is a need for equipment for fish farming so that we can become the world's number one exporter in fish farming. For this, the government has reduced tariff duties in this Budget. Tariffs have also been reduced in this Budget to promote the space sector. The honourable Prime Minister is clinging on to the path of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas'. We have made several amendments to the Finance Bill, and even though one may carry the impression that we have not worked on it, little is left for one to remark.

SHRI NEERAJ MAURYA: The government's slogan of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" is proving to be a mere slogan. If, while making the budget, the backward and Dalit sections are not taken into consideration, how can one envision the concept of Vikasit Bharat somewhere down the line, is anybody's guess. There is a huge tax burden in our country. All of us Indians pay both direct and indirect taxes. Almost 50 percent of the common man's income is spent on paying various kinds of taxes like GST, road tax, etc. This tax system needs to be reformed. There is massive corruption prevailing in private schools in terms of the supply and purchase of books. Government hospitals are in such a poor state that people do not get proper treatment and are forced to go to private hospitals. An AIIMS should be established in Amla-Bareilly so that the people there can receive good treatment. I would urge the government to ensure a uniform system of education and medical treatment. In Finance Bill-2, the honourable Minister of Finance maintained that there would be no punishment for late tax payments. However, the reality is altogether different. Often, due to the lack of information about TDS/TCS, TDS/TCS is deducted later. Sometimes, during audits, deficiencies in TDS/TCS

from the previous year are pointed out. In such cases, delays in depositing TDS/TCS are natural. We demand that when TDS/TCS is filed on the due date of the ITR and the taxpayer pays the interest on the delayed payment, there should be no provision for punishment. I would request the government to ensure that the tariff applied above the income slab of ₹12,00,000 should be taxed according to the applicable income slab, rather than taxing the entire income of ₹12,00,000. I would urge the government to forgive the loans of farmers. There is an urgent need for reforms in the GST system, and the government should pay attention to this. The GST model that has been developed should be simplified. This Budget does not address unemployment, and no significant attention has been given to it. The government should create some shops in the middle of cities for the unemployed so that they can earn a living. They are unable to expand their businesses for want of capital. Business owners are primarily focused on GST and other government regulations, which is hindering their business growth.

SUSHRI MAHUA MOITRA: The Government has done nothing to alleviate the burden of GST. There is no discussion on reducing indirect taxes on essential commodities and no roadmap to ensure fairer wealth distribution. The Kothari Commission, in 1966, had said that six per cent of India's GDP must be spent on education. The successive National Educational Policies insisted that six per cent of GDP must be spent on education. But we are spending around 4.5 per cent. This Government's own National Health Policy of 2017 said that public health must account for 2.5 per cent of GDP. In the last few years, we have come down from two per cent to 1.94 per cent. Taxpayers are paying extra cess for health and education. But, at least, spend it and give the country what it deserves. MGNREGA is still under-funded. If you pay West Bengal its Rs. 7000 crore, which is due, then, you decrease the outlay even more. According to the e-SHRAM portal, eight crore new people must be given ration. The Government is not giving these eight crore

people rations per month according to the Food Security Act. Rural unemployment is nine per cent. The fiscal deficit has come down to 4.4 percent. That has happened because you have cut essential spending to the poor. The Government's obsession with corporate incentives has only favoured big businessmen where small businesses and labourers have got hurt.

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY: Tamil Nadu has paid about Rs. 8 lakh crore in the form of direct taxes. As far as the status of poverty throughout this country is concerned, the numbers will be in the range of about 0.5 per cent to 1.5 per cent or 2 per cent in the Southern States. The Southern States have been striving continuously for the last several decades to eradicate poverty. We have brought out a scheme where every lady who is in the poverty range, will be supported with Rs. 1,000 per month where she will be able to improve her quality of life. The students were given an incentive of Rs.1,000 to study in Government Schools every month. We had huge calamities during the last two years. We implored to the Union Government to provide from the National Disaster Relief Fund to the tune of about 40,000 odd crore. Despite repeated pleas, we have not had the amount required. We have only been given a paltry amount of Rs. 200 crore as a relief. The government has introduced the National Education Policy 2020 in which they are talking about a three-language formula. The Government claims that the three-language policy has been implemented throughout the country. It expects us to learn three languages. I think this is an unfair way of treating people, especially the students. We feel that the two-language policy has helped Tamil Nadu go a long way. As far as the GST is concerned, GST has become nothing but tax terrorism. I feel it is a shameful thing that the Government is trying to make money even out of people's misery. So, I would expect this Government to reconsider the GST rates. Now talking about the electoral bonds, I would like to point out that even after the court had said that it is illegal and unconstitutional, the hon. The Minister of Finance had

maintained that they would bring back the electoral bonds again. The Finance Bill gives authority to the income tax officials to break into virtual spaces, to go and crack open codes, and get all the data where even middle-income people will probably not be spared from the clutches of this Government. Currently, India has a per capita income of about 2,500 dollars. To say that we are going to become a developed nation with a per capita income of 2,500 US dollars, I think they are fooling the people of this country. Right now, we are struggling to even achieve the target of a five trillion-dollar economy. We have been hearing that millions of people are migrating from India. So far as written off component is concerned, an amount of about Rs.18 lakh crore has been written off as NPA. The hon. Prime Minister had promised that the farmers' income would be doubled. Instead of doing that, the Government should at least waive their loans. I would urge the Government to kindly ensure that fairness is there during the delimitation process. They should also ensure that the triple language policy is abolished.

SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU: I would like to start off by congratulating the hon. Finance Minister for two issues. The first issue is that the indirect tax collection has risen by almost 16.2 per cent compared to the last year. The second issue is with regard to tax exemption which is up to Rs.12 lakh given to the income tax payers. Now, I would come to the four focus areas. The first one is regarding the faceless e-assessment. The second focus area is with regard to the GST collection. It has grown by almost 77 per cent. There are many Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunals at the State level that are not functional. I think the Union Government has to handhold the States and make these tribunals functional. The third focus area is the customs duty collection. This accounts for almost 5.6 per cent of the gross tax revenues. The fourth focus point is regarding the total CAPEX. The total CAPEX spent in the last 10 years is Rs. 50,00,000 crore, which is an amazing achievement. Achieving this is not easy, but it has been

possible due to the significant investments made in infrastructure over the last decade. We can invest in R&D activities. It is because if we look at where the foreign institutional investors in the last three or four years have invested across the globe, they are mostly interested in investing in new technologies rather than hard infrastructure projects. I cannot discuss the Finance Bill without mentioning Andhra Pradesh. In Andhra Pradesh, our reliance on the agriculture sector has increased from 24 per cent in 2014 to 35 per cent in 2024. In the last 10 years, we have become revenue deficient while simultaneously becoming increasingly reliant on agricultural activities. So, we request the government to give us the revenue deficit grants. In the liquor scam also, what had happened was that once those companies were incorporated, they started producing new brands which no one in this country had ever heard of. It was very interesting how the liquor was sold. The State government has given the beverage to all the shops and once they are given, all the transactions were cash transactions. There is no cashless transaction. How has this been looted out? This money belongs to SC, ST, OBC and minority communities. It belongs to every citizen of this country. All this money belongs to Andhra Pradesh. We request the Government to investigate the issue. These are the reports. SIT can only investigate to a certain extent but ED is the one which can verify the transactions that have been made fraudulently. I request that the revenue deficit grant be given and the Government should deliberate on bringing liquor under GST.

MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI JITAN RAM MANJHI) *intervening said:* The Prime Minister has said that two crore people will be provided employment or jobs in a year. I deal with the MSME department and I want to share with the House that 26 crore people have been given employment in MSME so far and six crore people have been registered.

SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT: In the 76th year of the Republic of India, the Finance Bill-2025 has been brought to implement the financial provisions of the

Union Government for the financial year 2025-26 with the introduction of a simplified income tax code, and its main objective is to make tax compliance easier, enhance clarity in tax regulations, promote taxpayer convenience, along with regulating financial proposals including taxation reforms and economic reforms. The government has amended several provisions of acts through this Bill which are in the interest of the nation, farmers, and the economy. Providing relief to income taxpayers by exempting them from payment of tax on income up to 12 lakh is a welcome step. The government has made numerous reforms for the convenience of taxpayers in the past 10 years. The government has also introduced a new income tax bill. The government has increased Foreign Direct Investment in the insurance sector from 74 percent to 100 percent for the reform and development of the financial sector. A provision has been made to avoid prosecution for depositing the TCS amount before the stipulated deadline. This change is significant to ensure that minor lapses in payments do not lead to serious legal consequences. This Bill pays special attention to farmers. The weather-based crop insurance scheme aims to provide financial security to farmers against crop loss due to natural disasters, pests, and diseases. A 'rural credit score' framework will be developed to meet the loan needs of the members of Self Help Groups and those living in rural areas. The government's proposals related to customs duties for indirect taxes aim to rationalize the tariff structure and address duty inversion. This will support domestic manufacturing and value addition, and boost exports. The government is set to provide relief on the import of medicines/drugs specifically for patients suffering from cancer, rare diseases, and other serious illnesses. The Finance Bill 2025 is in the interest of the nation, the country, the economy, the public, and farmers. I support the Finance Bill 2025 for the year 2025-26.

SHRI ANIL YESHWANT DESAI: The Budget focuses on various development measures. However, schemes like Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana, which

focuses on 100 underperforming agricultural districts, do not provide structural reforms in supply chains, MSP guarantees or crop diversification. There is no clear roadmap for tackling the farmer's distress, climate change impact on agriculture or rising costs. The reliance on NAFED or NCCF for procurement of pulses may not be sufficient to ensure stable prices. Over the years, agricultural crop insurance has not been of considerable help to the farmers in reality. In reality, on the ground, they are kept away from getting Bank credit by way of farm loans on the pretext of low CIBIL scores. This results in continued unabated suicides in Marathwada and Vidarbha regions of Maharashtra. This is a worrying cause and the Government should ensure that Anna Dada gets his rightful dues. Incidentally, Maharashtra, including Mumbai, the financial capital of the country, contributes the most to the Central exchequer, that is, around 40 per cent of the taxes. What does it get back? It gets back merely six per cent from the devolution of Central funds. I think that should be also revisited while working it out, and whatever recommendations come from the Finance Commission need to be reviewed. The support to the MSMEs and start-ups lacks the depth they require. Credit enhancements to MSMEs have been proposed in this Budget. However, it does not significantly improve access to low-interest credit for small businesses. A credit card limit of Rs. 5 lakh for micro-enterprises may be insufficient for expansion. As far as direct employment is concerned, the Government should focus on the potential in the public sector and Central Government Undertakings like Railways for employment. The Government should do away with the one-year apprenticeship jobs and offer permanent employment to the youth of our nation. Our trade policies still face high tariffs and regulatory bottlenecks, which may make it difficult to compete in the global markets despite export incentives. Moreover, the US President's announcement of reciprocal tariffs may further affect the bilateral trade ties. The overall healthcare budget lacks substantial expansion. There is no comprehensive policy to improve rural healthcare access. Shortages of doctors and paramedical staff, and deficiency

of medicines in the Government hospitals are the glaring examples of the plight of our poor public health infrastructure. The provision of education in the budget is 4.6 percent of the GDP. It remains below NEP targets. The ever-widening gap between urban and rural education needs to be bridged if the purpose of education to all, and the maximum literacy percentage is to be achieved. In this Budget, the hon. The Finance Minister has exempted the salaried middle class up to earnings of Rs. 12 lakh per annum. But at the same time, the Government has given a nod to the 8th Pay Commission. Therefore, the relief given in this Budget may be washed out. The GST rates need to be rationalised and also the GST of 18 per cent levied on insurance policies needs to be brought down which is demanded by crores of policyholders. Thus, the Budget focuses on agriculture, MSMEs, investment, and exports, as engines of growth. However, fiscal deficit, uncertain execution of schemes and over reliance on private investments, pose major challenges. While tax benefits, infrastructure, and digital expansions are positive, the lack of direct employment support, healthcare expansion, and structural economic reforms may slow inclusive growth. the hon. Minister of Finance may enlighten this House about the PLI scheme, which was rolled out in the year 2020, in 14 key sectors, with the objective of adding a fillip to manufacturing, and thus, addressing the issue of unemployment in our country.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: The purpose of the Finance Bill is to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2025-26. What we heard is a rhetoric from the Treasury Benches It was digging up the coffins of the bygone era. India is really going through a challenging time because the globe is going through a challenging time. There are disruptions or changes in various dispensations all over the world. I will quickly mark out a few points which really, I think, we need to know and the Finance Ministry needs to take cognisance of it. Growth is at 5.4 percent today, where manufacturing is

sluggish, and food inflation is disrupted. Jobs are clearly stagnant. Capital flows are disappointing. Exports have shrunk by 10.9 per cent. I may not be an economist but I do understand that we have to take ownership of it. Unemployment is at 4.2 percent. There are 15 per cent youth today who are jobless, and the number grows every day. Now, I come to car sales. I come from Maharashtra, Pune district. Pune district is one of the largest hubs of car manufacturing. The car and motorcycle markets have gone down by 17 per cent. There are three reasons for the same. One is affordability, secondly, high interest rates and thirdly, the slowing down of the economy. So, all these indicators are showing that the economy is in trouble. Now, we come down to breaking up the taxation. Normally, the tax is divided and we were earlier at various percentages. Now, we reached 40 per cent. Then, 41 per cent agreed to be given to the States. I come from the State of Maharashtra. We have the State of Tamil Nadu. We are all States which give and contribute to the kitty and we are happy to do that. If we can help other States grow, we are very proud, but it cannot be at just the cost of our tax. I would like to put it on record that there are monies which are supposed to be shared by the States but these are taken in the form of many kinds of cess by the Central Government and the States suffer because of that. So, what is this mechanism? It is completely unfair. We all know that all the FIIs have pulled out of the stock market. They are pulling out because they do not see the growth happening here. They prefer other economies which are growing. So, what steps is this Government to take? Who is affected in this entire stock market? It is the middle class which is getting hurt. So, what checks and balances is this Government going to do to make sure that they stay steady? Another very big intervention which we need to flag here is the gold loan. The gold loan is something about which even the RBI has shown concern. This is the first time it has happened in India that over 50 percent of people are turning towards the gold loan. So, I request the hon. Minister of Finance to make sure they take some action and be prepared for this because the outcomes will hurt the country. The other big

issue which is raised several times is the FRBM Act. The fiscal management is what this Bill is all about. But now they have taken all the Adivasi funds, and the Department of Social Justice funds are used for populist programmes. Is this Government going to intervene for good management of fiscal deficit and good governance. Another important question is of GST. The sole idea of the GST was 'one nation, one tax'. But, there are so many slabs from three percent to 28 percent, and there is so much confusion. The Minister of Finance praised all the State Governments that the state Governments are doing very well. So, I want to ask her one thing: when will we become one nation, one tax, which is the real soul of this? All the developed nations are doing that. GST needs a lot of reforms, which are suggested by many of us, and many of my colleagues have talked about it. I would like to ask this Government about tariffs. Tariffs are a big concern for all of us. I want to know the stand of this Government on the unilateral zero tariff for agri-products. Now I come to the taxation system. Everybody here in this country wants to pay tax. We are all tax-paying. Why is there always a fear about this tax? Why does this Government like to scare people? What is the status of the Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme? Crores of rupees are stuck. You should bring the Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme for everybody. You should extend that Scheme and show trust in people. Indians are very honest people by nature. That is why we do globally extraordinarily well. I request the Government to stop hurting people and have a very transparent and fair regime.

SHRI GURJEET SINGH AUJLA: In the year 2024-25, our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is not able to grow beyond 6.4%. From 2005 to 2014, the income of the poor had increased by 183 percent under the leadership of the then Prime Minister. During that period, the MSP of wheat increased by 119 percent and during the last 10 years of tenure under the current Government, it has increased by only 47 percent. At that time, the MSP of rice had increased by 135 percent and

during the tenure of this Government, it has increased by only 50 percent. Today we have to pay GST even on purchasing the smallest essential items like candles or matches. More than 10 lakh income tax cases are pending. There is a great need to improve the situation. Youth play a vital role in taking the country forward. About 22 crore youth applied for government jobs during the last 10 years but only 7.2 lakh of them could get jobs. Punjab is being discriminated against. Punjab's debt has increased a lot because it has not been granted any relief. The Government needs to pay a lot of attention to Punjab. Work on the Patti-Makhu rail link, Vyas-Kadian link and Mukeria-Talwara rail link has not been operational yet. Please pay attention to this. All the industries located in Amritsar have nearly been destroyed today. All our industries have shifted to Himachal and Jammu & Kashmir. National Highway projects are stuck in the entire Punjab. The Government is not paying full damages to our farmers. Along with these farmers, the condition of the labourers is also very bad, but the Government is not paying attention to them. There is a shortage of about 10 lakh teachers in the entire country. There is a need to focus on the border areas. During the rainy season, a lot of water gets accumulates in Punjab and there is a loss of thousands of crores of rupees. But neither the Union Government nor the state government compensates for it. The entire Border Area Development Funds have got stuck. Amritsar needs to be made an IT hub. If the work of the expressway is completed, an IT hub can be established here. There is not even a single good hospital in Amritsar. International airport over there is also in extremely bad shape. I request the Minister of Finance to pay attention to Punjab and Amritsar.

SHRI P. V. MIDHUN REDDY: Section 90 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act clearly states that the Polavaram project will be taken up as a national project, and all the necessary clearances and land acquisition will be done by the Central Government. But, in the recent Budget, we have seen that the height of the project or the storage level is being pegged at 41.15 metres instead of the

originally contemplated level of 45.72 metres. This is a great injustice to our State. We want the Government to clarify that there is no loss to Andhra Pradesh. We are not going to accept the privatization of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant because if it is privatized, it will be a loss to the employees and the State. The present government of our State is neglecting all the good schemes the previous Government had implemented. For example, there is a scheme for fees reimbursement that allows any child to study for free in any engineering college or pursue higher education, with the Government covering all the expenses. There are almost 11 lakh students who benefit from this scheme every year. However, in the past few quarters, the fees of these students have not been paid by the Government to the colleges, and the students are in great distress. If the Government is unable to support the education of poor people, how is the State going to prosper? The Government should act immediately. Earlier, people used to receive treatment in any notified hospitals in the State under the Arogyasri scheme. But, the payments to these hospitals have not been made and the network hospitals have stopped giving treatment to Arogyasri patients. The Government should act on this. I also request the Minister of Finance to exert some pressure on the State government and reduce the price of diesel, which is so high in the State. 'Special Category' status was promised for Andhra Pradesh, and they said a package would be given. We want the Government to spell out what package was given and what benefit AP has got. A lot of things that were promised in the AP Reorganisation Act have not been fulfilled. We appreciate the Government for having given money for the development of Amaravati as capital. We just need Rs. 1,500 crore to Rs. 2,000 crore to put the 17 proposed new medical colleges on track. But, all the 17 medical colleges have been put on hold. The Union Government should step in and help in running these colleges. I request the Central Government to do justice to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: This Finance Bill is about nation building; it is not only about economic policy but also about economic freedom. Hon. Prime Minister has guided the nation from uncertainty to unprecedented growth. This unprecedented development has been possible because we have run our Government with honesty and have worked to take the country forward with Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas. India is the fastest growing economy in the world today. The Government has made a provision of zero tax on income up to Rs. 12 lakh this year. It will give an opportunity to all

sections of the country to move forward. This Finance Bill has the resolve for a developed India. It has opportunities for the youth, and it also talks about women empowerment. Through this Bill, work has also been done to provide unprecedented tax relief to the middle class. Earlier, more than 180 legal provisions were decriminalized under the Jan Vishwas Bill 1.0. Government will now bring up the Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 to decriminalize more than 100 such provisions in various laws. It is likely to provide great relief to the business class. In the insurance sector, instead of 74 percent Foreign Direct Investment, now 100 percent FDI is possible, but the entire premium collected will have to be invested in India only to qualify for availing the 100 percent FDI limit. Taxpayers can claim zero annual value for the properties owned by them now. Earlier there was a provision for availing benefit on one property only. Now the Government has made a provision to allow benefits on two such self-occupied properties. Now the domestic market will benefit from the amendments made in the Inland Vessel Act, 2021. There was no trace of startups during the regime of previous governments. But by believing in the youth of India, our Government started the Start-up India scheme. The youth of the country have set up more than 1,60,000 startups today. If we talk about indirect tax, we have abolished 7 tariff rates. The government has abolished the social welfare surcharge. Pharmaceutical companies have also been completely exempted from customs duty. Customs duty on 37 life-saving drugs has also been completely waived. We have also waived basic customs duty for 13 New Patient Assistance Programmes. Changes have been made in different rules related to industrial imports. Rs 1.5 lakh crore will be provided for micro, small and medium enterprises in the next five years. We have brought reforms in the banking system. The government has reduced tax to zero up to an income of Rs 12,00,000. A GST Appellate Tribunal has also been set up. Last year, 4.6 crore new jobs were created. The Government has done the work of giving four lakh crore rupees i.e. 20 percent additional working capital to the traders. Today, 12 out of 12 Banks are in profit and in a strong position. FDI has brought 709 billion dollars investment into our country. Through 'PM Kisan Samman Nidhi', farmers have been provided Rs 3,60,000 crore. We have strengthened farmers through the Banking sector. Today, there are 24 AIIMS, 706 medical colleges and 1,150 universities in the country. Today, the length of National Highways is 1,60,000 kilometres and the number of airports is 160. The number of IITs has increased to 25. Today, there are 15,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras. The Government has also done the work of providing medicines at affordable rates and free treatment under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme. We have

become self-dependent in pharmaceuticals and electronic goods. Semiconductor chips are also going to be manufactured in our country.

SHRI E. T. MOHAMMED BASHEER : This Finance Bill covers various relevant changes in the Income Tax regime such as, compliance mechanism and expediting that; reduction on certain Customs Duty; Income Tax exemption for start-ups; tax exemption for IFSC; and NGO's tax exemption for enhanced period under 12A. I request that tax exemption should be given for spare parts and accessories meant for hearing impaired persons. The Government should develop modern devices and equipment for physically-challenged persons in the country itself. The government slashed corporate income tax in 2019 from 30 per cent to 22 per cent. Stock market investors, corporates, small business owners have all fallen prey to the worst kind of tax terrorism. In 2024, this long term capital gains was hiked to 12.5 per cent. Short term capital gains was increased to 20 per cent in 2025. Securities transaction tax has been hiked by 60 per cent in 2024. Is the Government trying to bring back electoral bonds in another shape or form? The Finance Bill does not merely focus on taxation. It is the poor who are actually paying taxes. By enlarging the scope of PMNRF, we can extend more assistance to cancer patients. The Dispute Redressal Mechanism is very poor. FCRA registrations have been countermanded in bulk. There should be an interest free Banking system in place.

SHRI ABHAY KUMAR SINHA: India has the highest rate of GST in the world i.e. 28 per cent. You are working to recover the hard-earned money from the poor of the country in the form of GST. Today, only 2 per cent of India's population pays income tax. In 2014, the unemployment rate was 4.9 per cent and in 2024, the unemployment rate is 7.8 per cent. More than 94 lakh families in Bihar have a monthly income of Rs 6,000. What kind of poverty alleviation does the Government talk about? One fails to see as to how the government plans to take Bihar forward. We want Bihar to be given a status of State Category.

SHRI DEVESH SHAKYA : The Prime Minister promised to double the income of farmers, waive off bank loans, provide cheap seeds and cheap irrigation. On the contrary, the imposition of 12 per cent tax on farmers' plants, tractors and harvesters, 5 per cent tax on quality seeds, Rs 1,350 for a bag of fertiliser, and 18 per cent tax on micro-irrigation has aggravated the stress of farmers. In the year 2024-25, 8,410 farmers committed suicide in the country, of which 1,020 are from Uttar Pradesh. Cooperative Banks have been given tax exemption under Section 80P, Income Tax Act, 1961, but no new rule has been made to extend credit to small farmers. Section 54D, the Income Tax Act, 1961, provides for relief for agricultural land, but there is no rule for simplification of loan. No special package has been given for Mandis in this Budget, leading to getting the farmers nowhere. I

demand from the government that a big Public Procurement Centre be set up for the production of tobacco to facilitate the farmers at home.

UTPAL KUMAR SINGH
Secretary General

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

Monday, March 24, 2025 / 3 Chaitra, 1947 (Saka)

THE FINANCE BILL 2025

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PROF. SOUGATA RAY: India is in an economic crisis which we do not see. India has not yet reached 5 trillion dollars. The main thing necessary for the Finance Minister is to announce a tariff policy. We must have a uniform tariff policy. The Government has no economic roadmap. They want to trigger the private-sector investment. So, initially, they lowered the Corporate Tax to 22 per cent and for new firms, they kept it at 15 per cent. They launched the Productivity-Linked Incentive scheme to incentivise firms. Along with that, the Government also increased its capital expenditure quite sharply, hoping that it would crowd in private sector investment. This Finance Bill the main thing is that the middle class has been given income tax relief. The main point is this bill is to reduce the tax on individuals. There will be no tax on income up to Rs. 12 lakh. It was thought that it would be very popular. However, lowering income tax on private individuals will not incentivise private investment. It has never happened. That is why, I oppose this Finance Bill. All the assumptions made in this Finance Bill are false. This does not meet the challenges faced by the economy, both external factors and internal factors. The investment is not rising; the unemployment is at its highest; and the country is in bad shape.

***SHRI MALAIYARASAN D.:** This Budget which highlights the financial path of this Government, ignores the real and genuine needs of States like Tamil Nadu. Destroying the Fiscal Federalism. This Union Budget seem uneven and

** Speeches made by other hon. Members have already been included in the Synopsis (Main).

* Original in Tamil.

biased with a step-motherly treatment. Devolution of funds to Tamil Nadu has seen a sharp decline. This has been a matter of shock for us. Union Government has made a devolution of Rs 1,73,030 crore to all the States out of which Tamil Nadu got only Rs 7, 057. 89 crore. This is a matter of great concern. This system of centralisation of powers with the Union Government has been strongly criticised by political experts. Coming to GST compensation, States are facing challenges due to financial instability. So, it has sought an extension of GST Compensation Cess beyond 30 June 2022. But there is no system created for providing compensation to the States. Again, farmers of Tamil Nadu are facing several challenges, particularly of nature which is increasing day by day. Increased expenditure and the impact of climate change have affected their financial situation very badly. Even though the Union Government does not pay heed to the sufferings of farmers, the State Government of Tamil Nadu has waived off farm loans to the tune of Rs 12, 110 crore in Tamil Nadu. Similarly, infrastructure and its state of affairs are being ignored. As regards the construction of AIIMS at Madurai, only the foundation stone was laid and no other progress was made in this regard. There is a reduced allocation in the Finance Bill for MGNREGA, Midday meal scheme and other Schemes meant for marginalised sections of the Society. I urge upon the Union Government to pay dues for Tamil Nadu immediately. Besides, funds worth Rs 2172 crore are pending from the Union for Education in Tamil Nadu. An amount of Rs 3,000 crore is pending for release to Tamil Nadu as regards Jal Shakti Schemes. This House should ponder over the fact that what would happen if States like Tamil Nadu were weakened by the Union. It is our farsighted vision to make our federal system stronger thereby ensuring prosperity for every State of this country and development to its every citizen.

SHRI AMRA RAM: In the Budget (2025-26), the aim is to make the rich of this country richer, and the common people and the poor have been looted through inflation and taxes. Indirect taxes have been increased. Whether it is GST or the tax imposed by the Union Government on petrol and diesel, it has been increased to collect Rs 65 lakh crore during these last ten years. The corporate tax imposed on industrialists has been reduced by 10 percent and the tax on common people has been increased. The Bharatiya Janata Party promised to double the income of farmers but the same has not been done. Rather their cost has increased manifold. Farmers are also suffering from price fluctuations. Today, no one is ready to buy the agri-products garlic and onion even at a low price. The Government has failed

to give MSP till date. In this Budget, foreign companies have been given a 100 percent exemption in investment in the insurance sector. The Government intends to sell public sector undertakings. Today, lakhs of posts are vacant in the departments of the Union Government and public sector undertakings. In this Budget, the budget of MNREGA and the budget meant for farmers and rural development have been reduced. It is being done continuously. The Government has written off the NPAs of big companies. The way this Government discriminates against the state governments of opposition parties in the Budget, I believe, is not justified in any case.

DR. VISHNU PRASAD: India faces challenges like food inflation, unemployment, stagnation in growth, and trade deficits. In 2047, India may become a developed nation. But to achieve that, we should have an 8 per cent growth rate. But right now, we are having only a 6.3 per cent growth rate. What is worrying for India is that we have Rs.181 lakh crore debt which is 57.3 per cent of GDP. In this Budget, for the agriculture sector, the allocation is only 2.7 per cent, that is, Rs.136 lakh crore. The recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission have not implemented yet. Nano-fertilizer is a big failure as per the record. During the UPA regime, a six per cent tax deduction was given for agri-gold loans. But this Government has cancelled it. The present move of delimitation is not acceptable to us. At the same time, we see discrimination in budget allocation for southern states. Now, I move on to the National Education Policy. We are sending rockets. In ISRO, mainly Tamils, Malayalis, Kannadigas, and Telugu people are working. It is not at all fair to force us to accept NEP for sanctioning our educational funds. The Indian Meteorological Department is again a big failure. As far as personal income tax rates are concerned, the best way would have been to increase the threshold limit and keep the tax working simple. Why are we following two sets of tax regimes? Only one slab of taxation would be effective and it must be simpler to a common man. The MSME sector is also suffering on account of new tax rules. TDS continues to be tedious for the common man. There is no easy mechanism. Lastly, The Finance Bill, 2025 brought by the Government is at points against the law.

SHRI SOUMITRA KHAN: We never thought that India would be among the top five economies. Today 25 crore people have been brought above the poverty line. Chandrayaan mission has been launched. In the year 2014, tax GDP was 6.5 percent, in the year 2025 GDP will be 11.7 percent. Today, Rs. 47 lakh crore is

being sanctioned in the budget. Earlier no one had thought about West Bengal and the North East. A private investment of Rs. 4 lakh crore is being made in Assam. People of Kolkata are going all over the country. In this budget, Rs. 34,684 crore has been granted to West Bengal. Under the special assistance to states for capital expenditure, Rs. 7 thousand 659 crore has been invested. This is not a small thing. The amount of Rs. 13 thousand crore has been sanctioned for the railway budget. The railway track of 1,646 km of West Bengal has been electrified. West Bengal has received nine Vande Bharat trains. Today, Rs 32.937 crore has been allotted to West Bengal. 28 new Navodaya Vidyalayas have been sanctioned for West Bengal. Today, so much money has been provided by the Union Government to make Kolkata a smart city. The Union Government's Ayushman Yojana and Vishwakarma Yojana are not being implemented in West Bengal. The Union Government wants to open AIIMS in Raiganj, but the land acquisition work by the state Government has not been completed yet so the land policy of West Bengal should be reformed.

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN: The Amendments to the Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 are being proposed through the Finance Bill 2025 as per the recommendations made by the GST Council in their 55th meeting held on 21st December 2024 at Jaisalmer. To address tax evasion and strengthen compliance, the GST Council has recommended the insertion of a new section 148(A) through clauses 126 and 127 in the Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, under which a comprehensive track and trace mechanism is likely to be implemented for specific goods. A study of the Finance Bill shows that the total expenditure of the Union Government has grown at the rate of 6.1 per cent. Income tax and GST have seen the highest tax collection. The collection of corporate tax has been average. There has been an increase in collection from customs duty and excise duty. Regarding the Finance Bill, I would like to suggest that there should be equitable tax collection and tax distribution so that India's economy becomes stronger. Similarly, my suggestion on 'No Taxation Without Representation' is that whether we are imposing direct tax or indirect tax or production, it should not affect the common man. We should mop up unproductive wealth and promote productive investment in the country. A sound fiscal policy and well-calibrated monetary framework along with digital transformation should be taken forward further in the direction of sustainable economic growth.

***DR. THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN:** The Union Government has failed in managing the economic affairs of this country. This Government is struggling to repay its debts and thereby unable to allocate adequate funds for the developmental programmes. This Union Government is therefore unable to allocate funds for the States as well. Funds meant for the Education Department of Tamil Nadu have not been released. The disaster relief fund was not provided for Tamil Nadu. Funds meant for the 100-day employment guarantee scheme were not allocated. Similarly, the Government is unable to allocate funds for health and as a result Swachh Bharat Cleanliness programmes have failed completely. I have one more important demand to make that Buddhist monks are on indefinite hunger strike. There is a Bodh Gaya Temple Management Committee set up under the Bodh Gaya Temple Act. There are more number of non-Buddhists in this Management Committee. There are no Buddhists on this Committee. I urge upon this Government to hand over the management of this Bodh Gaya temple to the Buddhist community.

SHRI SUDAMA PRASAD: I put forth my views on the practical aspects of the Budget. We see that the government officials are looting the public at the block level. No work is being done there without taking money. Bribes of 40 to 50 thousand rupees are being taken openly for allocation of Indira Awas. Under PDF, four kilos of ration are being given instead of five kilos. I request the Government to take steps to stop all these corrupt practices. Apart from this, those who really have kutcha houses, a survey should be done on that basis only and their houses should be built. The proposal of 65 percent reservation passed by the Bihar Legislative Assembly should be included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution and caste census should be conducted in the entire country. Bihar should be given the status of a special state so that it can develop holistically. The canals originating from the Son River should be paved. In the interest of small businessmen, online trading should be curtailed and a Trade Commission should be formed. Finally, I request that the investors of Sahara should be given their due through its agents.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: The Budget 2025-26 falls extremely short of addressing several challenges and pressing economic concerns. This is extremely sad that Punjab which has contributed a lot to the nation is not considered in the country's Budget despite it facing several issues. Present Government and the previous Congress Government of Punjab mishandling of their

* Original in Tamil.

expenditure, revenue mobilization, debt management and the State of exchequer, we have reached a state of fiscal mismanagement. Today, the Indian youth account for almost 83 per cent of the unemployed workforce which clearly shows that this Government's focus towards job creation has not been successful. What is even worse off in this budget is that there is no strategy for the layoffs which are happening due to computerization, artificial intelligence and other technological advancements. Despite 20 per cent of the investment, MSME provides employment to 80 per cent of the industrial workforce. Unfortunately, there is no focus on the MSME sector in this Budget. PLI scheme should be extended to those industries, where they can increase revenues, increase exports and provide employment. It is unfortunate that this Budget has no allocation for these industries. Earlier, there was a scheme which was known as Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS), wherein MSMEs could upgrade their technology. Unfortunately, this has been discontinued. The Government's decision to increase the MSME turnover threshold from Rs. 250 crore to Rs. 500 crore is highly disproportionate. Therefore, I urge the Government to seriously reconsider this matter. There was not a single mention about the Minimum Support Price in this Budget. No Government has not given in to the WTO pressure and we hope that this Government will also not do it.

SHRI HIBI EDEN: The Finance Minister presented this Budget against the backdrop of economic distress, slowing growth, rising inequality, stagnating wages, and a decline in private investment. The budgets are not just numbers; they reflect the Government's vision for a country. Unfortunately, this Budget presents a vision that prioritizes fiscal consolidation and corporate appeasement over social welfare and economic resilience. The real GDP growth is expected to be between 6.5 per cent and 7 per cent and has settled at 6.4 per cent, a decline from 8.2 per cent the previous year. The economic growth in isolation does not indicate prosperity. We must examine how the growth is distributed among different segments of our society. The Government's claims of robust economic growth and the so-called high GDP growth does not translate into higher employment opportunities or increased wages for workers. The GST on life saving drugs is an important issue. Government need to address because it is a basic issue. The life and livelihood of fishermen are in great trouble. Their daily livelihood items have been taxed at 18 per cent. In the ongoing economic hardship faced by millions, the Government has chosen to systematically reduce the expenditure on critical sectors. Such drastic expenditure cuts in crucial sectors suggested that the Government is prioritizing

fiscal discipline over the welfare measures of our citizens. Every year, the Government proclaims tax relief for the middle class. So, who truly benefits from these tax cuts. But it is the wealthy/elite people who reaps the rewards.

DR. C. N. MANJUNATH: India is steadily marching towards becoming the third largest economy. The scientific and synchronized direct and indirect taxes are playing an important role in shaping our economy. NDA is the DNA of a progressive, performing and sustainable economy. It is the DNA of a positive economy. If you look at tax revenue, it has grown from 10.1 per cent to 13.1 per cent in the last one year. As far as tax devolution is concerned, the tax devolution to the States has increased by 35 per cent. The important component of this Bill is the introduction of a unified tax system. Another important thing is to give India's businessmen a chance to participate in the international financial sector. Another important thing is that raw silk, raw jute and khadi have been exempted from GST. India is the second largest producer of silk, and Karnataka is ranked at first position in silk production. We need to establish a silk museum and also a silk tourism centre. The TDS limit has been increased on senior citizens as well as on rent. That is a healthy development. The Government has also made some special provisions for sunrise sectors. The sunrise sectors also include electric vehicles and renewable energy. One important thing about this sunrise sector is that the date for claiming the tax relief, that is zero tax, is extended up to 31st July 2030 to promote the growth of all sunrise sectors, whether it is renewable energy, information technology or electric vehicles.

SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL: The Finance Bill is considered to be the annual review of the Government's taxation policy. Taxation is an option which briefs the economy but today the same tax has taken the form of air pollution. From waking up in the morning to going to sleep at night, huge tax we have to pay on every activity. I tell you about the daily routine of a middle class man. He wakes up in the morning, brushes his teeth, pays GST on toothbrush and toothpaste. He takes bath and pays water tax. He makes sandwiches with bread having GST for breakfast. He also pays GST on the school bus fee in which his child goes to school. He pays electricity duty on the fan used in the office. He also eats roti having GST, etc. Tax exemption has been implemented only on the new regime. They have not implemented any tax exemption on the old regime. I would request the hon. Minister of Finance that if tax collection has to be increased, then

GST should be imposed on speaking lies in the House. So much of lies are spoken here, so good money will be collected from that.

ADV. CHANDRA SHEKHAR: I would like to put some sufferings in front of you. Houses of Rajbhar community were burnt in Sant Kabir Nagar. Dalits were attacked on Holiday in Mathura. A 23 year old boy was killed in Gorakhpur. According to the 2024 report of CMIE, the unemployment rate in India remains more than 8%. No concrete policy for creating new employment for the youth is visible in the budget. The government should pay attention to the farmers and waive off their loans. 100% GST exemption should be given on agricultural equipment. The condition of education in government schools is extremely pathetic, while on the other hand education in private schools has become so expensive that poor children are being deprived of education due to expensive fees, books, bags and dresses. The black marketing in private schools should be stopped. The government should explain why no special provision has been made in the budget to stop human trafficking? Why the entire amount of Nirbhaya Fund is not being spent for women's safety. A national task force should be formed to stop the sale of daughters.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: The number one issue is how is the Government going to achieve the target of 9.8 per cent increase in the non-tax revenue? In the last financial year, the Reserve Bank of India has given one-time dividend of Rs. 2.11 lakh crore, or an increase of almost 47 per cent. This time such an allocation is not there. So, how are you going to achieve the target? The second issue is that the ratio of primary deficit to the fiscal deficit is in a declining trend. I would like to caution the Government that this fiscal discipline is at the cost of economic growth, job creation, and essential public services. So, my suggestion is that a gradual and strategic reduction in the primary deficit, coupled with increased revenue generation, is the right thing to be done by the Government. The third point is that in the year 2025-26, the Government is envisaging and estimating Rs. 14.38 lakh crore by way of income tax, that is, 14.4 per cent increase over the Revised Estimates of 2024-25. It is illogical because already you have provided tax rebate for an income less than Rs. 12 lakh. How come this 14.4 per cent increase in the income tax receipt? The fourth point is the illogical claim related to the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme, that is, MISS. The limit on credit is enhanced from Rs. 3 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh, but there is no increase in the Budget allocation with respect

to the same. It is same Rs. 22,600 crore. So, how are you going to achieve that target? Critical evaluation of the Finance Bill reveals that it may harm long-term fiscal sustainability, deepen inequality and undermine essential public services. Lowering of the corporate tax is giving a wrong message. The rich are further enriched at the cost of public welfare. The higher income bracket is increasing but the per capita income is not increasing. That means inequality is an alarming situation. The World Bank report in January, 2025, global economy is expected to have a steady growth at 2.7 per cent in the year 2025-26. The global economy appears to be settling at a lower growth rate. The new US Administration led by Mr. Donald Trump has stated that global trade war will reduce US growth as well as global growth in general. The growth forecast of United States of America is down from 2.1 per cent to 1.7 per cent. India's forecast is down from 1.7 per cent to 1.5 per cent. China has announced a fiscal stimulus to boost the economic growth of China. And Mr. Donald Trump has further cautioned, that from April 2nd onwards, that means from the next week onwards, to impose reciprocal tariffs from April 2nd onwards. How Indian economy is going to save us out of this situation especially in the light of the trade war which is being announced by the President of United States of America. The proportion of tariffs and taxation proposals in the Finance Bill are not sufficient to boost our GDP growth and will further affect the poor and the youths who are unemployed.

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: In the Finance Bill, 2025. Government have talked about increasing the FDI limit in the insurance sector from 74 to 100 percent for companies investing the entire premium in India. Country should adapt quickly to the situation of the states and let the economic factors focus on economic activities. For the treatment of serious diseases like muscular atrophy and dystrophy, for which medicine has to be bought from abroad the production of medicines should start in India and medicines should be made available free of cost by importing them at the level of Government. Some People through social media, go for crowdfunding for children. But they are able to collect only two, five, seven crore rupees, they are not able to reach the range of 16 crores, the Government should pay attention to this. Agricultural equipment including tractors should be made GST free. The Government should listen to the voice of 14.4 lakh LIC agents. The Government announced in the budget to increase the loan limit of Kisan Credit Card from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. it is necessary to increase the agricultural income. The Government has claimed that in the last ten years the number of seats for

students in IITs has been increased from 65 thousand to 1.35 lakh. There is an extreme shortage of research funds and modern labs and facilities as well as trained faculty in these newly established IITs. Gas, oil, cement and other companies established in many districts of our Rajasthan including Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Alwar, Nagaur do not use their CSR funds in that area. The Government should make a provision to spend the money spent under Corporate Social Responsibility in the development of the company's area of operation. The Government talks about the upliftment of farmers through FPO, but I want to ask why FPO is also being registered under the Company Act? The Government wants to bring the farmers of the country under the income tax net through FPO, because at present there is no tax on agricultural produce. Whether the Government propose to make provision of charging tax on the income earned through FPO, tax free or not.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: GST should be withdrawn from all items related to agriculture, health, education and kitchen. A total of 37,467 MSMEs have been closed in the last five years. Today, the biggest burden in India is on the middle class and the common men. The terror of private hospitals is at its peak. No provision has been made in the budget for Mamta and Asha sisters. Has any provision been made in this budget for higher education of middle class children? Is there any provision in the budget for old age and widow pension? There is no water or any other arrangement for the poor people who have come to the cities from the villages. Metro trains should be introduced in the cities of Bihar. Provision should be made to make Purnia a smart city as well.

SHRI VAMSI KRISHNA GADDAM: In the Budget, the allocation towards SC welfare is hardly Rs. 1,65,000 crore, which is hardly 3.25 per cent of the entire Budget. When we are 16 per cent of the population, why are we not getting what we deserve? Dalits have the lowest access to education and employment. Therefore, we need to pay special attention towards them. A special attention for the bottom-most community is much needed, and for this we can refer the models of Karnataka and Telangana. The State of Telangana and other Southern States contribute 36 per cent of the GDP, but only 15 per cent is returned. Why is this discrimination being done to the Southern States of our country? We have demanded special railway connections for pilgrims of Tirupati and Sabarimala from my place Peddapalle, but nothing has been given. I request the Government to

allocate Rs. 10,000 crore to Pedapalli. We need to create textile parks in Chennur, and Singareni to protect and create new jobs, green and clean technologies in NTPC and Singareni, and start-up incubation hubs. There are a lot of technological innovations happening. Start-up incubation hubs for Pedapalli are required in this AI age. I also request the Government to give tourism development grants for Dharmapuri temple, and Ramagiri temples in Manthani. I also demand tax exemptions for dalits and backward classes, and warehouse facilities for Pedapalli. A new railway station infrastructure is also required for the development of Pedapalli and Mancherial. We also need a BPO centre in Pedapalli under India's BPO Scheme.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL: The plight of middle class in India is pitiful. They are subjected to exorbitant taxes and they are facing unstable employment opportunity and decreasing employment generation. Private companies are being harassed by the Government for taxes and political donation. Our youth is facing employment crisis. India's tax system is regressive. Frauds amounting to Rs. 2 lakh crore were detected in 2023-24. GST mismanagement is a glaring issue that the Government fails to acknowledge and work on. Middle-class and lower income group are undergoing a severe financial crisis. Indian rupee is consistently weakening against the US dollar. We are actually struggling to attract meaningful domestic and foreign investment. Private investment is stagnant. Our economy is undergoing a severe crisis due to skyrocketing fuel prices, food inflation and the rising cost of living.

SHRI RAJKUMAR ROAT: Rural, Dalit-backward and tribal-dominated areas have been neglected in the Budget. The budget for healthcare facilities has not been increased. Sickle cell, cancer and TB diseases are increasing rapidly in tribal-dominated areas. Scholarships have not been provided to ST students for the last two years. A special package may be provided for Baiga community. GST may not be levied on food items, education and healthcare facilities in the interest of common man. The Budget allocation for Anganwadi helpers and workers may be increased according to the current inflation. The wages provided under MGNREGA may be increased to between Rs. 400 and Rs. 500.

SHRI UMESHBHAI BABUBHAI PATEL: Industries are closing down in Daman and Diu. Fifty percent GST should be waived for industrial units located there, to support their survival. The diseases currently not covered under 'Ayushman

Yojana', should be covered and Ayushman cards should continue to be valid in private hospitals, so that people can avail treatment in private hospitals. Subsidy should be provided to fishermen for the purchase of boats, nets and engines. People should get free treatment in Government hospitals. There is a shortage of teachers in schools and professors in colleges here. Corruption is a very big issue here. Therefore, cost auditing of all the development works undertaken during the last seven years should be carried out and all those works should be investigated by the CBI.

SHRI AGA SYED RUHULLAH MEHDI: There has been a significant reduction in the budgetary allocation for Jammu and Kashmir. For the first time during the last five years, the unemployment rate here is the highest in the country. The Budget allocated Rs. 1000 crore to the police rather than to industries, health sector, education, horticulture and tourism. The jobs of SPOs could have been made permanent instead. There is no provision to compensate and incentivize the tourism sector. Horticulture is the backbone of our economy. Kashmir's apples are sold in the country's markets. There is no import duty on apples imported from Iran and the USA. Their quality is low, so the rate is low. An import duty should be imposed on foreign apples and support Kashmiri apple production. Thousands of youth, who have been imprisoned without trial for years should be released or at least they should be shifted within Kashmir.

ADV. GOWAAL KAGADA PADAVI: The Government does not have any financial or economic strategy for taxation. The amount of money being collected from companies is less than the tax revenue collected from individual taxpayers. Decreasing the GST rate on MSMEs from 18 to 15 percent will promote the MSME business. The Central Government must consider changing the GST policy. In 2024, the figure of affordable houses sold has come down by 26 per cent. The luxury housing market is booming while the middle class is struggling with an affordability crisis.

The discussion was not concluded.

UTPAL KUMAR SINGH
Secretary General

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NOTE: It is the verbatim Debates of the Lok Sabha and not the Synopsis that should be considered authoritative.

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