RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, July 01, 2024/ Ashadha 10, 1946 (Saka)

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, I am pleased to extend birthday greetings to hon. Members of Parliament, Shri Abdul Wahab, Shrimati Sumitra Balmik, Shri Elamaram Kareem and Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy.

Shri Abdul Wahab a third term Member of this august House (2004, 2015 & 2021), is a senior leader of Indian Union Muslim League. He is a dynamic entrepreneur and compassionate educationist. He spearheads several NGOs with commendable credits to their unwavering commitment to service of humanity. UNESCO recognition to his vocational skill training outfits is a tribute to his commitment and dedication. Married to Shrimati Yasmine Wahab, the couple is blessed with four sons-Jabir, Javed, Ajmal and Afdal. I wish hon'ble Member Shri Abdul Wahab a long and a happy life and extend greetings to his friends and family.

Shri Elamaram Kareem, three times Member of Kerala Legislative Assembly and former Minister in Kerala Government, is a Member of this august House since July, 2018. From being a student activist, he contributed significantly for five decades for the cause of Trade Unionism; has tirelessly championed the welfare of workers; and has been recognised for reviving the tile industry in Kerala. He has also represented India's voice at various international forums, including International Labour Organisation, Geneva. Married to Shrimati Rahmath P.K., the couple has two Daughters-- Sumi and Nimi. I join this august House in wishing Shri Kareem and family a healthy and a happy life. May the society at large continue to benefit from his wisdom for years to come.

Shrimati Sumitra Balmik, a Member of this august House since June, 2022, is a grass-root politician, rising from Municipal Councillor to Parliamentarian, all through her dedication to welfare of downtrodden. Her four decades of political journey is marked with impressive accomplishments. Her very presence in this House is an acknowledgment of Bharat's commitment to honour "Nari Shakti."She is blessed with two daughters (Manisha and Mani) and a son Rupesh. I wish her a long and healthy life and extend greetings to her family, friends and well-wishers.

Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy, a second term Member of this august House is a leader of the Y.S.R.C. Parliamentary Party in the Rajya Sabha. His vast knowledge and rich experience are aptly reflected in the contributions made in this House.He, as Chairman, steered committee proceedings directionally and thoughtfully taking some innovative steps. A Chartered Accountant by profession, he has also served on the Board of Tirumala

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Tirupati Devasthanams and as Director in public sector banks. Married to Shrimati Venumbaka Sunanda Reddy, the couple is blessed with daughter, V. Neha. Hon'ble Members, on behalf of this House, I wish him and his family, a long, healthy and happy life.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of His Excellency Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran; His Excellency Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Iran; His Excellency Alhaj Ali Hassan Mwinyi, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania; and, His Excellency Dr.Saulos Klaus Chilima, Vice President of the Republic of Malawi.

Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and **Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian**, Foreign Minister of Islamic Republic of Iran and other senior Iranian officials passed away in an unfortunate helicopter crash on 19th May, 2024. They will always be remembered for their efforts and contributions in strengthening our bilateral relationships.

On behalf of our country, I visited the Islamic Republic of Iran on 22nd May, 2024 and attended the official ceremony and personally paid tributes to the dignitaries. Our nation also observed a day of national mourning on 21st May, 2024.

His Excellency **Alhaj Ali Hassan Mwinyi**, passed away on 29th February, 2024 at Dares Salaam. He was the second President of the United Republic of Tanzania from 1985 to 1995 and had implemented the economic recovery policy and steered Tanzania towards growth and prosperity. His liberal economic policies brought relief to the Indian diaspora in Tanzania involved in trade and businesses. Our nation has deep appreciation and respect for his exemplary leadership and contribution in advancement of India-Tanzania relations.

Dr.Saulos Klaus Chilima passed away on the 10th June, 2024, when a Malawi Defence Force aircraft carrying him and nine others crashed while attempting to land. Dr. Chilima was a Malawian economist and politician, who served as Vice President of Malawi from 2014 to 2019 and again, from 2020 until his death in 2024. Before entering politics, Dr.Chilima held senior positions in various MNCs including Airtel Malawi.

he House joins the bereaved families, the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran, United Republic of Tanzania and Republic of Malawi in mourning the passing away of His Excellencies, Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, Dr. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Alhaj Ali Hassan Mwinyi and Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima.

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

REFERENCE BY THE CHAIR

(i) Anniversary of blowing up of AI 182 Flight "Kanishka"

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, June 23rd, 2024, marked the anniversary of one of the darkest days in the fight against terrorism. Two Air India aircraft flying out of Canada were targeted by terrorists. 329 innocent people lost their lives when Air India 182 "Kanishka" was blown up off Ireland on June 23rd, 1985. Two others were killed as

another major catastrophe was narrowly averted in Japan. Regrettably, justice was never fully served in these cases. These incidents are a grim reminder of why the world must show zero tolerance towards terrorism and violent extremism. Such acts can never be condoned or justified or countenanced under any pretext.

(ii) **Kuwait Fire Incident**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, in a tragic fire accident that took place on 12th June, 2024, in a residential building Labour Housing Facility in Mangaf area of Kuwait, 49 persons, including 45 Indians lost their lives and more than 50 persons got injured. The loss of precious lives in this tragic incident is indeed painful and unfortunate. Our Embassy in Kuwait, in coordination with the local authorities, ensured safe evacuation and necessary assistance to those injured from the accident site and immediate repatriation of the mortal remains of the deceased to our country. This House joins me in expressing heartfelt condolences as well as deep sympathy to the families of those who lost their lives and wishes early recovery of those injured.

(One Minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of those who lost their lives in these tragedies.)

FELICITATIONS BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, Bharat, one-sixth of humanity, was elated by the spectacular victory by the Men in Blue in the T20 Cricket World Cup, on a glorious Saturday at Bridgetown in Barbados, as Team India defeated spirited South Africa in the final Match. Stupendous performance by our cricketers who remained undefeated throughout the tournament is testament to their dedication and hard work. It is a celebration of teamwork, resilience and relentless pursuit of excellence. As we rejoice this momentous glory, let us also remember that such historical accomplishments inspire every citizen of our nation to dream big, work hard and achieve eminence. I would also like to congratulate the South African cricket team for their excellent performance who came very close to clinch their maiden trophy. Their heroic performance is praiseworthy. Hon'ble. Members, on my behalf and on behalf of this august House, I extend our heartiest congratulations to the cricketers, the management, the ground staff, the coach, the BCCI and everyone connected with the Indian Cricket Team. May they continue to scale new heights, bring laurels to the country and inspire the nation for greater glory in our Amrit Kaal.

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

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE): The President is the most important part of the Parliament. We respect her a lot. The President's address is prepared by the Government. It was expected from the ruling party that they would present this Address as a vision statement and tell how the current challenges will be dealt with, but there is no such mention in the Address. The Address has neither any direction, nor any vision. We were confident that the President would definitely say something on the challenges of the Constitution and democracy, and give some concrete message for the weakest sections, but we were deeply disappointed that there is nothing in it for the poor, Dalits, backwards and minorities. The Address ignores fundamental issues and hides Government's failures as always. Hon'ble President has said that we should work together, this century is India's century and the coming era belongs to India. No one can deny this sentiment, but our experience of 10 years is that these things have remained only

in speeches, they have not been implemented on the ground. The Constitution has given us adult franchise. At the time of general elections, the President had issued a special message for voting and said that in democracy, the people are the masters, they are supreme - I agree with this. This message of the President is completely true, but this was the first election in the history of the country, in which the protection of the Constitution became an issue. The public felt that other issues can wait, but if the Constitution survives, only then the democracy will survive. Only then, the elections will also be held and we will be able to get elected to the Parliament.

The poor, farmers, labourers, women, youth etc. supported us in this fight and did a great job of saving democracy. Even now, there are people with an anti-social justice mindset. This fight will be completed only when such ideology is uprooted. One of the features of this Session is that the people of the ruling party are chanting the Constitution out of fear of the mandate, but there are people in the Parliament who have an objection to the slogan "Jai Samvidhaan". The people of India have seen and tested their real intentions, ideology and motives. In the last decade, Parliamentary institutions and traditions have been continuously weakened, the opposition has been ignored. They had envisioned such a Parliament in which there would be no opposition. If they did not have such mindset, the post of Deputy Speaker would not have been vacant for the first time in the 17th Lok Sabha. There is a legal provision in the Constitution for Lok Sabha Speaker-Deputy Speaker and Rajya Sabha Chairman-Deputy Chairman, but you kept the post vacant for five years. Are you acting in accordance with the Constitution? In this very Rajya Sabha, the Prime Minister had, challenging the Opposition, flaunted that *"Ek akela, sab par bhaari"*. The election results have shown that the country's Constitution and people are superior to all. The statues of 15 great personalities including Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, Constitution maker Baba Saheb Ambedkar and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj were removed from their places and placed in the backside of Parliament. Millions of people used to come there to pay their homage, but you shifted them in the backside fearing that protests would be held there. You removed the statues of Mahatma Gandhi who brought us freedom, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar who framed the Constitution and personalities like Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj so that no one can see them. A huge movement took place in 1963-64 to get the statue of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar installed in front of the Parliament.

We had struggled during our student life to get Ambedkar's statue installed there, but now it has been shifted in the backside of the Parliament House. Thousands of people come there to pay their homage to him on 14 April. I appeal to you to install the statues of Gandhiji, Baba Saheb Ambedkar and Shivaji back at their original places. If you insult them, then it will be an insult to 50 crore SCs, STs, Dalits, deprived and tribal people and to the country and the Constitution. No meeting of the Committee was convened to shift these statues which comprises the Leader of the Opposition, Speaker, Lok Sabha, Chairrman, Rajya Sabbha and other members. I have full respect for Mahatma Gandhi and other leaders as well. It was decided to install the statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Baba Saheb Ambedkar face to face. They are not aware of the composition of the Committee for installing the statues in the Parliament House. These statues should be shifted back at their original place after seeking opinion of all the members of the Committee. The Prime Minister just said that people want work and not just slogans. For the last 10 years, the Opposition has been asking the Government to do some work too instead of just raising slogans. They gave slogans like 'Achhe din aayenge', 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', 'Sabka saath sabka vikaas', 'Chaar sau paar' etc.

I ask the person who is showing sympathy for the poor and women that Manipur has been burning for a year, how the women and people there are being harassed and their homes destroyed; did you go there even for a day? You supported and developed only a few people, and destroyed the poor. What is the reality of all these slogans - this country knows very well. The 2024 election was an ego-breaking election in the words of the common people. 17 ministers of the previous Government lost the elections. I had also said in my last speech that the BJP government only does politics of diverting the attention of the public from important issues. When we talk about unemployment and paper leak, Modi ji remembers Mangalsutra and Mujra, when we talk about inflation, BJP starts talking about inflation abroad instead of the inflation in the country. When the Opposition talks about the public, Modi ji starts telling his Mann ki Baat. I want to tell the Prime Minister to answer today's issues, the public is capable of taking a decision on what happened in history. The President has said in paragraph 26 of her speech that in today's era of communication revolution, disruptive forces are hatching conspiracies to weaken democracy and create rifts in the society. They are resorting to misinformation to spread rumors and confuse the public.

In this election, the Prime Minister made such statements due to which the dignity of the entire country was greatly hurt. He made all out efforts to weaken democracy, divide the society, spread false news, but he failed in this. This has had an adverse effect on our reputation in the whole world. Recently, it was even reported in some newspapers that there has been a shocking increase in cases of hate speeches and demolition of houses and places of worship of the minority community in India. We are not saying all these things; the people of the world are saying this. The statements made by him during the elections were very hateful. Whatever was said in the elections, people understood that the person sitting in power for ten years has nothing to show as the achievements of the Government. During the elections, the Prime Minister used insulting language against other political parties including the Congress. The election manifesto of the Congress was linked to a particular religion. In 75 years, Prime Ministers belonging to different parties have campaigned for elections, but this was never seen. In the 77 days of elections, the Congress gave 117 complaints to the Election Commission, out of which 14 complaints were against the Prime Minister, on which no action was taken. Our accounts were frozen. Institutions like ED, IT, CBI were also misused. He used to abuse coalition government. Modi saheb used to say that it is a khichdi government and that India's image has been tarnished in the world due to coalition governments. The people of the country forced him to form a coalition government by reducing him to a minority. Why do you say such things, why do you say arrogant things? Prime Minister used to say, *pikchar abhi baaki hai*, how his picture is going to be can be guessed from the last one month. NEET PG paper leak, UGC-NET paper leak, NEET Under Graduate exam cancelled, CSIR-NET exam cancelled, horrific train accident, three major terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, water leakage in Ram Mandir, roofs of three airports collapsed in three days, five bridges collapsed in Bihar in 15 days, toll tax increased, rupee depreciated considerably and in the recent cases, cases of rigging, paper leak and corruption in NEET, UGC-NET came to light. In the last seven years, papers have been leaked 70 times in the country, due to which the future of two crore youth has been ruined. This is a question on the entire system. When we raise questions, they say that the opposition parties just want to create a ruckus. You fix the system, who is stopping you? You make claims on everything, but you cannot take any action regarding the matter of paper leak, with which the future of children is linked. Minister of Education refused to accept the incident of paper leak and gave a clean chit to NTA. Someone's vested interests are involved in this. Please investigate it from your side. Many such cases have come to light in the past years, if the government

had taken concrete steps, these cases would have stopped. That is why our demand is that not only the paper leak and NTA, the entire education system should be investigated in a transparent manner under the supervision of the Supreme Court. If this is investigated under the supervision of the Supreme Court, it will be good for the future too, no matter who is in power. The founders of our republic considered education to be the most powerful tool for the path of prosperity. We started Maulana Azad Fellowship, due to which students from weaker sections got the opportunity to study in these institutions. The result of all this was that today Indian doctors, engineers, scientists get respect and jobs all over the world. If degrees are to be respected, then such things like fraud, scams etc. should be stopped. If the current situation does not improve, then the credibility of our education system will be in danger all over the world, every degree will be doubted, and people will look at every degree with suspicion.

You have broken the morale of the youth by bringing an unplanned Tughlaqi scheme like Agniveer. There was a big movement of youth all over the country regarding this, but you did not listen to anyone. My demand is that the Agniveer scheme should be abolished. We built agriculture universities, we brought the green revolution, we brought white revolution. We gave 27 percent participation. We gave reservation to SC-STs. We gave reservation to tribals. You only talk about breaking. Modi ji promised one rank, one pension in Haryana in 2014, but you have gone for no rank, no pension. This is my opinion. This opinion will remain, as long as there is casteism, untouchability in this country, it will remain. If everything is handed over to the private sector like this, where will the children of the poor, deprived, dalit, tribal, backward classes study? Let the army remain the army. There are many topics in this country to do politics. Every 15 minutes a big crime against Dalits takes place. Every day 6 Dalit women are raped. These are not just numbers. These are real people who have been facing discrimination for years. Even today the situation has not improved. The issue of social justice is an issue in the hearts of the people. It is important to pay attention to this. There has been a demand for caste census for a long time. The condition of farmers is worse today than before. Who had promised to double the income of farmers by 2022? But on the contrary, the cost of their farming has increased. Farmer organizations across the country are demanding a law guaranteeing MSP. You form a committee on this and make a law on it, take the initiative, the opposition parties are ready to support the government on this. There is a big threat to the national security of the country. Three consecutive terrorist attacks took place in Jammu and Kashmir in the same month.

Meanwhile, a big scam has come to light, which the government has tried to suppress. On 19 May, the Prime Minister said that the stock market is going to grow rapidly. The Home Minister said that 'Buy shares before 4th June.' They do marketing of many companies. They used such language. Sir, the exit poll came and on 3 June the stock market broke all records, but on 4 June the stock market fell completely. Investors suffered a loss of 30 lakh crores. The Prime Minister and the Home Minister are responsible for this. In the end I would like to say a few things about the country's lifeline, the Indian Railways. Recently the Kanchenjunga Express accident took place. Before that there was also the Balasore accident. Our railways carry passengers equal to the population of Australia every day.On one hand, the country is being shown the dream of high-speed trains and bullet trains, on the other hand, the government is not able to ensure the safety of citizens. If we raise questions on any accident, the answer we get is how many accidents happened in your time, how many such incidents happened. It would be better if you first fill the more than three lakh vacancies in the railways. This will give opportunities to all SC, ST, etc. In the last 10 years, the poor man is out of the government's thinking. The government thinks about a few rich people. Inflation has spoiled the budget of the poor.

The rising prices of petrol, diesel, LPG cylinders, fertilizers, pesticides, milk products, etc. have spoiled the budget of the common man's house. I request you that the government should pay attention to such important things. By imposing GST on everyday things, they have made them more expensive. Gandhiji had said, "I will try to build such an India where even the poorest of the poor will feel that this country is theirs, where their voice will matter. Where there will be no discrimination of high and low and women will get the same rights as men." We have to think together how far we have progressed in the direction of the vision set by the Father of the Nation.In this very House, a BJP speaker said some derogatory things about the first Prime Minister Nehru Ji, it is in the proceedings. In the speech that Atal Ji gave in the Rajya Sabha on 19 May 1964 on the demise of Nehru Ji, he said, "Humanity is sad today, its worshipper has fallen asleep. Peace is restless today, its protector is gone. Dalits have lost their support, the apple of the eye of the people has fallen. This is a long speech of Atal Ji, I will briefly put a few points before you. "That personality, that vivaciousness, that feeling of taking along even the opponent, that gentlemanliness, that greatness, will probably not be seen in the near future. We have nothing but respect in our hearts for his patriotism and his unflinching courage." But the RSS has been doing the work of character assassination of Nehru Ji for decades by continuously discussing him negatively. Many workers of the Sangh, who are in Parliament and the government, are also doing the same thing. Nehru Ji was undoubtedly born in a rich family, but he remained in jail for about 9 years in the freedom struggle.If there were leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee, this situation would not have arisen. I end my speech with these words.

SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR: I am going to speak on very factual basis. I will start with paragraph 3 where the President talks about good governance.The World Bank's Government Efficiency Index puts India at number 66. It is the lowest when it comes to developed countries. We are behind Botswana, Fiji, Mauritius, Lithuania, Latvia, etc. If we would have spent more time on actual governance rather than on advertising slogans and taglines made by ad agencies for boosting the image, things could have taken place in the last ten years. The second part relates to the GDP and that we are the fifth largest GDP country in the world. We talk of five trillion dollar GDP by 2024. It was a promise made by the Prime Minister. We are in 2024. And we are nowhere near four trillion dollars. This is a Government, as everyone knows, for the rich and by the rich. We talk of GDP in terms of you and me, which is per capita GDP. In terms of per capita GDP, India's rank is 120 in the world with only 2,400 dollars. We are one of the lowest in terms of GDP in the world. It is an established fact. inequality has reached insane proportions under this Government.The second point that I want to raise is on paragraph 4 of the hon. President's Address which is, 'My Government's Budget'. let me humbly submit this. As I stand before you, there is an economic blockade of West Bengal. There are many opposition States that are suffering from pinches and cuts. But as far as Bengal is concerned, we have been stopped from Rs.1.23 lakh crores for MGNREGA, PM-JAY, PM Gram Sadak Yojana, NHM Central subsidy, etc. We are specially targeted.An amount of Rs.870 crore of health sector funds are illegally stopped to us by linking it. We have to understand why there is special hatred for Bengal.The excuse given by the Finance Department is that you do not submit UC.UC means Utilisation Certificate. Now, you please see CAG Report of 2021-22 and what it says in para 4.16. It says that 32 Central Ministries have not submitted UCs for 4,42,800 UCs.Today is 1st of July and will be remembered like the 13th of April, 1919, Jallianwala Bagh day, because our laws, our criminal laws, which have worked well, have been trampled and discarded without discussion when 146 MPs were suspended. Section 150 of the BNS criminalizes subversive activities without defining what subversive activities are. I want a clarification from the Home Minister. Under Section 172, police can

arrest anyone. You are stopping fasting as a political weapon. Fasting was a political and sacred weapon. Section 149 authorizes the police to go on and break up any form of political agitation. About banks, the Finance Minister has said that frauds have eaten away more than Rs.2 lakh crores. All India Bank Association says that two-thirds of the entire bad loans are accounted for by 13 favoured houses. You have operationalized the Telecommunications Act. It says that every sign, signal, writing, text, image, sound, video stream, data stream information is amenable under the Act for interception and for punishment. This is entirely aimed at criminalizing and terrorizing. In the labour force, the rate of unemployment is eight percent which is the worst among the top ten economies. Under the PLI Scheme, a U.S. Enterprise is charging more than Rs. 3 crore per job created. It is very much. For the poor, you have to feed 81 crore people and yet talk of a mythical poverty line. Either they are not poor or you are force-feeding them. You talk of Jan Aushdhalaya but they are not sufficient. The Labour Force Participation Ratio among women is the lowest, among all the top countries in the world. As far as the green era is concerned, every law that pertains to the environment has been amended with brute majority. Our pollution is one of the worst. I will end here by requesting the Railway Minister to run some more normal trains. We do not want bullet trains, but we want our normal trains to be safe.

SHRI MEDA RAGHUNADHA REDDY: As we navigate our nation's development journey, it is crucial to acknowledge that this progress brings its own set of challenges. While we are growing at a substantial speed, our key economic indicators are not showing that much development. We need urgent steps to ensure that the fruits of development reach the poor and the needy. The country's rapid advancement can be attributed to several key factors, including robust industrial development, a thriving services sector and substantial foreign investments. This growth trajectory sets a promising foundation for India. India's international stature has been steadily rising and is reflected in its growing influence in global economic and political arenas. The Women Reservation Bill was probably the most historic and one of the biggest achievements of the NDA Government for which I am thankful. Then the Chandrayaan-3 Mission of ISRO, making India the first country to touch down near the lunar South Pole. I urge the Government to continue supporting ISRO with adequate funding. This will enable ISRO to achieve greater milestones and continue making significant contributions to science and technology. As of now, there is continuing violence against YSRCP supporters in Andhra Pradesh. I urge the Central Authorities to intervene and ensure justice and safety for all affected communities. The denial of Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh constitutes a grave injustice by the Central Government. The people of Andhra Pradesh deserve Special Category Status, which is their legitimate right and expectation. Therefore, I urge the Central Government to grant Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh without further delay. During the previous Government, Andhra Pradesh had made substantial progress in fortifying its maritime logistics capabilities. The Ramayapatnam, Machilipatnam, Mulapeta and Kakinada Gateway ports were being developed at an accelerated pace. These new ports are projected to augment the State's cargo handling capacity. Furthermore, these infrastructural advancements are expected to create employment opportunities both, directly and indirectly. In addition to port development, the State has undertaken construction of fishing harbours and fishing landing centres to bolster the livelihoods of fisherman. These projects are integral to the broader strategy of transforming Andhra Pradesh into a maritime powerhouse. We need the Central Government backing for making Andhra Pradesh a leading hub for maritime trade.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: I express my thanks to the whole House, to Members of this side as well as that side. All of them were very eloquent in upholding the Constitution

and defending the values of the Constitution. The Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha plus the President are called the Parliament. But, the President was not there on the two great occasions in the history of this Parliament. V.D. Savarkar's birthday was marked here by inaugurating this House. I want to ask why Hon'ble President was not invited on the occasion. The second occasion was inauguration of temple in Ayodhya. On that day also the whole country was searching for the President. In this country today, when rain comes, Canopy of airports are falling down. We commit ourselves to fight for this country called India. We will march forward, and we will see to it that the country and the people will win. Next thing is about paper leaks. For the Government, Lord Ram is only a status symbol. It is only a symbol for catching votes. I believe Ramayana is a great epic of this country. I know the significance of Lord Ram. We know that lakhs and crores of people respect Lord Ram. You bow your head before the Constitution. Where is the Constitution now? You have brought in Sengol! Sengol represents the Brahmin and Kshatriya nexus! It is the power structure against Dalits, Adivasis, the backwards, poor, women and all the oppressed. For the BJP, all Vedas will come to one Veda and that is Manu Veda, the Manu Smriti. Before Manu Smriti, there were no Vedas, no epics, nothing was there. We demand freedom for women. We demand freedom for Dalits. We demand freedom for the oppressed people.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: The 18th Lok Sabha Elections spread over 6 weeks and 640 million voters decided or gave their verdict. We bagged all 40 seats that we had contested. It is the only State in India where we have won all seats that we have contested. The people have given a clear verdict, not a clear majority. In USA, the President prepares his own speech and delivers it. But, here, the speech is prepared by the Council of Ministers and the President only delivers it. When we attempt to criticize, it need not be construed that it is against the President since she had only delivered the Address. It is only the criticism of the Council of Ministers. The people of India have given many clear messages. Number one, this country considers economic issues more than divisive rhetoric. The President's Address has to inform the Members of both the Houses of Parliament about the various programmes and the priorities of the Government. But, it was only a summary of the previous Government. The British Parliament has been working for three hundred years in the same building; whereas, we moved to a new building. Now, we are deprived of a Central Hall. Even after five years, we will not get acquainted with the new Members of Parliament in Lok Sabha because nowhere we can come across them. This time, the NDA Members of Parliament sat there, in that abandoned Central Hall, to elect their leader.

The President, Draupadi Murmuji, may not have the opportunity to watch the full proceedings of the House. The Sansad TV which is meant for the Parliament is only for the Treasury Benches nowadays. It only focuses upon them. Whatever we do, even it may be a disobeyance, it must be telecast. The people will decide whether what we are doing is right or wrong. The duty of the Sansad TV is to focus on the proceedings of the House. India has got sixty-four per cent of youth population. Every month, one million enter into the youth population. It will become a demographic disaster if employment is not created. The President has also very gladly said that 25 crores of people have been brought out of poverty. As per the World Bank's data, 10 per cent of Indian population are below poverty, that is, 14 crores. India is a largest booming economy, but 22 crores of people are living in poverty! Mumbai hosts the richest man in Asia and the largest slum in Asia. This is real socialism. In politics, they used to say, even one week is a longer period. You have been given ten years. Have you brought down poverty? Have you taken care of the farmers? The President of our nation signed immediately the Farm Bills that were passed in the Parliament which were not prepared in the proper manner. It was not debated. It

should be taken into account that the federal Government is not that creates the States, it is the States that create the federal Government. The Speaker, who is considered to be above politics, the Prime Minister and his Party and even the President in her Address, recalled the Emergency. We don't say, don't speak about that. The DMK Party to which I belong, was the worst sufferer during Emergency. That was a declared Emergency, but this is an undeclared 'emergency' by the BJP. You are taking away the rights of the States, the people, the minorities. During the passage of the three criminal law bills, 150 MPs from both the Houses were suspended and the Bills were passed. Stakeholders were not called. Nobody was consulted. Every issue has got two sides. You may be on one side, we may be having one side, but democracy is where both sides are discussed, and a consensus is arrived at. But you don't allow us to speak.

Fluctuation in the share markets is mostly decided by the performance of certain firms. Secondly, Government policies, taxation and many other things influence the share markets. The third is war in a foreign country and foreign exchange reserves. The fourth is artificially created fluctuations. On May 19th, the Prime Minister said that the share markets will soar high and high, after June 4th so, all must be ready. On June 1st, the Home Minister said that the share markets will rise after June 4th, India will be benefited. After the forecast of 401 seats was given by Exit Polls, the NSE increased by 733 points on June 3rd. But, BJP didn't form the Government. The poor common man, ordinary investors who are interested in share markets have lost Rs.30 lakh crore. It is a very big economic scam that has happened. Ordinary people are affected. Democracy is totally curtailed. We are not heard and it is not taken as 'important'. All this that we are saying is in the interest of the nation. Respect democracy and honour the opposition parties' views and think of people, first of all, the poor, the farmers and the youngsters who are running for jobs. All these things should be taken into consideration. Last year, only seven Bills were referred to the Standing Committee. In this regime, refer Bills to the Standing Committee or the Select Committee, call the stakeholders, consult each and everyone, bring a comprehensive Bill and make it a law.

SHRI SANJAY SINGH: It was mentioned that India is the world's largest democracy and the elections were conducted in a very good manner. But this election witnessed many incidents. During this election, opposition leaders were put in jail. Chief Ministers and ministers of various states were put in jail by misusing ED, CBI and other investigative agencies. We saw the level of language in this election. Anil Deshmukh ji was kept in jail for 14 months, Sanjay Raut ji was kept in jail for 103 days and I was kept in jail for 6 months. But later everyone got bail. I have listened to Atal Ji's speeches. He said, politics is not done with malice, politics is done with a big heart. It is not right to target people of the opposition. This is not your good politics. I just want to say that stop the politics of malice. If you want to strengthen India's democracy, strengthen India's constitution, then both the ruling party and the opposition are important. You are not going to get any benefit by eliminating the opposition, by putting the leaders in jail. Many incidents have happened in the country during Amritkaal. The Government has started a scheme like Agniveer which provides a four-year job plan. In which a youth will join the army at the age of 17 and will retire at the age of 21. If you talk to the army officers, you will come to know that when a soldier works in the field for five years, only then his services are used in a war situation. This Agniveer scheme is an attempt to compromise with the security of India. The Government should reconsider and withdraw this scheme. It was told that India has become the fifth largest economy in the world. But in terms of per capita income, our country is at 141st place. This fifth largest economy is for those few capitalists whose bank loans of crores of rupees were waived off. The whole country should be informed about this. The Government had promised the porters that their

children would be given jobs, they would be given uniforms and all kinds of facilities. Even today there is no hearing on their demands. 70 papers have been leaked in the country in two years. The lives of two crore students and youth were ruined due to paper leak. NTA officials should be investigated and whoever is involved in this should be arrested and put in jail and NTA should be dissolved.

This government has not given more than Rs 324 crore to Delhi government in the last nine years because the Aam Aadmi Party is in power here. Their only aim is to put our people in jail, not to cooperate with us for development here and obstruct various public welfare schemes being run by us. The government has not released Punjab's share of Rs 8 thousand crore rural development fund payable by the Central Government and the rest of the funds for education and health. A message has also been given to you in this election that we are Hindustan, and we want to live together and want to live by strengthening secularism. This country equally belongs to Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains. You move forward with this feeling and the whole country will stand in solidarity with you. Unemployment, inflation, illiteracy, Agniveer, corruption are major issues facing the nation. You should see the situation in Ayodhya. You are angry with the result of Ayodhya, and it is justified to be angry, but did you reflect on the reason for it? You must introspect why this is happening to you. I will end my talk by saying just one thing. It would be wise if you choose the right path because arrogance will only take you downhill. You will not benefit from this.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the hon'ble President on behalf of myself and my party for presenting a very good and impressive list of the government's 10 years of work and also giving us the message about the government's intentions for the next 5 years. This is a good tradition, and it should be there in our parliamentary system. Unfortunately, we are not able to follow these traditions in the same way. We get distracted by various issues as there are many types of interruptions and good issues get ignored. We also have hope and expectation about how we can improve this practice. Different issues were discussed here. Everyone knows that our Indian Constitution is considered the best among all the constitutions in the world. If we have been able to keep democracy alive here, it is only on the basis of the Indian Constitution. All the people sitting in this House or getting elected to that House are getting elected under this Constitution, but we have still talked very sceptically around Constitution in this election. Even in America, the dark skinned citizens and women did not get the right to vote initially. In our country, the right to vote was given in this Constitution written by Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar and others in 1950 without any discrimination of religion, caste or creed. The right we got was not available in America even in 1950. Martin Luther King started a campaign there, taking inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi and as a result, everyone got the right to vote there in the 60s. That is why it was so sad that it was being said throughout the election that the Constitution is in danger! In Parliament, in Lok Sabha, where we make laws and then pass them in this House by seconding them, there are more than 100 SC/ST MPs belonging to all parties who are elected to that House. If we ever talk about taking away reservation or rights of SC/ST or any other class by making any change in our Constitution, will those 100 MPs support it? They may belong to any party; will they not be one if any such thing happens? We could not highlight this as effectively as we should have, but the truth is that no one can touch the Constitution. Not even once in the last 10 years has this government ever used Article 356 to remove any elected government. We will have to accept this too. In 2008, we were part of the UPA Government which signed the Indo-US civil nuclear agreement. How can one pretend about this? This is available in the official records of the Lok Sabha. Under the leadership of the present Government, during the last 10 years, the

country has made progress in every field including amazing development of infrastructure. Housing has been built for lakhs of people and treatment is being provided to them on free basis to the extent of Rs. 5 lakhs through Ayushman Card. Just as the UPA Government had waived off the electricity bills of farmers, the present Government has taken forward the work of farmer welfare by disbursing *Kisan Samman Nidhi*. However, it remains a challenge to reconcile the interests of onion producing journalists and consumers. Due to the good policies of the Government, the export of agricultural products is increasing very fast. From the importance given to skill development in India to the Indians working abroad, the Republic has also set a record of being the country with the highest foreign exchange in the world. We have to maintain this pace and policy so that we can bring even greater laurels in future.

[#]**SHRI SUBHASHISH KHUNTIA**, *making his maiden speech*, said: I represent the State of Odisha and my constituency of The Holy seat of the world famous Puri Jagannath Dham. The Lord Jagannath is the Lord of entire universe. All great saints of India have been His devotees. Lord Jagannath is the symbol of our history, culture and tradition. The BJD government has carried out a lot of improvement in Temple premises and its surroundings. The Rath Yatra held here annually also remains very famous. Its core message is the welfare of humanity and global brotherhood. Today, the state of Odisha is economically backward in comparison to other states. Our state has been demanding a special status for a long time. But, we have been constantly ignored. However, the Biju Janata Dal government did many development related works in the state of Odisha and made every possible effort to increase agricultural production. We have always made contribution towards the national cause. Our state has a huge potential to progress. We need proper support from the Central Government. Hence, I request a greater financial assistance to the state of Odisha.

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P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.

rssynop@sansad.nic.in

[#]**Spoke in Odia.**

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