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ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO PARLIAMENT

The provision for an Address by the Head of State to Parliament goes back to the year 1921 when the Central Legislature was set up for the first time under the Government of India Act, 1919. Under article 86(1) of the Constitution, the President may address either House of Parliament or both Houses assembled together, and for that purpose require the attendance of members. Article 87 (1) provides for an Address by the President to members of both Houses of Parliament assembled together at the commencement of the first session after General Election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first session of each year.

The Address by the President is a statement of policy of the Government. It contains a review of the activities and achievements of the Government during the previous year and sets out the policies which it wishes to pursue with regard to important national and international issues. It also indicates the main items of legislative business which are proposed to be brought before Parliament during the sessions to be held that year.

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, addressed members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 31 January 2020.

We reproduce below the text of the Address.

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Honourable Members,

I am pleased to address the joint sitting of Parliament at the start of the third decade of 21st century. I once again extend my best wishes for the New Year and congratulate all Members of Parliament for being a witness to this historic occasion.

This decade is extremely important for India. In this decade, we will complete 75 years of our independence. In this decade, we all have to work together with new energy to give impetus to the making of a new India. With the efforts of my Government, a strong foundation has been laid in the last five years, to make this decade India's decade and this century India's century.

Whether it is Pujya Bapu's dream of Gram Swaraj, Babasaheb Ambedkar's principle of social justice, Nehru ji's dream of creating a modern India, Sardar Patel's resolve for Ek Bharat-Shreshtha Bharat, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya's goal of Antyodaya, Lohia ji's vision of social equality, we the people of India will together make these dreams a reality.

Honourable Members,

The Constitution of India is the guiding light for all of us in fulfilling these dreams. Just a few weeks ago, on 26th November, 70 years of the Constitution have been completed. On that day, 12 crore citizens of the country, publicly read out the Preamble of the Constitution and renewed their commitment to the Constitution.

In addition, to protecting the rights of every citizen of our country, our Constitution makes the citizens of the country mindful of their duties. Further, our Constitution also places an expectation that the decisions taken through democratic processes will be accepted by the countrymen. At the same time, our Constitution expects the Parliament and every member present in this House to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the countrymen and make the necessary laws, keeping the national interest paramount.

Honourable Members,

I am happy that in the last 7 months, Parliament has set new standards in conducting its business. The performance during the first session of this Lok Sabha has set a new record in the last seven decades.

Due to my Government's strong commitment, the law against Triple Talaq ensuring justice to Muslim women and safeguarding their rights; the Consumer Protection Act providing new rights to the citizens; the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act for protecting the savings of the poor; the Chit Funds Amendment Act protecting the poor from fraudulent chit fund schemes; the law enhancing punishment for sexual offences against children; Motor Vehicles Amendment Act aimed at reducing road accidents; and the law protecting the rights of the transgender persons - several such historic legislations have been enacted.

I congratulate every Member of Parliament for fulfilling this Constitutional responsibility.

Honourable Members,

The faith reposed by the people of our country in our democratic institutions strengthens the foundation of our democracy. The maturity displayed by the countrymen after the Supreme Court's verdict on Ram Janmabhoomi is also laudable. My Government is of the firm view that mutual discussions and debates strengthen democracy. At the same time, any kind of violence in the name of protests weakens the society and the nation.

Honourable Members,

In a democracy, nothing is more sacred than the mandate given by the people. The people of the country have given this mandate to my Government for the making of a new India.

- A new India which takes pride in the glory of our ancient culture and which enriches the 21st century world with the power of its knowledge.
- A new India, in which besides finding solutions to old problems, new chapters of development are written.
- A new India, in which adequate facilities and new opportunities for growth are available for the poor, dalits, women, youth, tribals and minorities.
- A new India, where every region develops, no region is left behind, where the benefits of modern technology reach the farthest end of society, and
- A new India, which is at the forefront of the fourth industrial revolution and which attains new heights at the global stage.

Honourable Members,

For making such a new India and for fulfilling the expectations of the people, my Government is working with commendable pace and decisiveness to bring about changes in every field. It is the outcome of reforms at the grassroot level ushered in by the Government in the last five years that there has been an unprecedented improvement in India's global ranking in several areas.

In the World Bank's **Ease of Doing Business** rankings, India has leapfrogged to the 63rd position, moving up by 79 places. In the **Resolving Insolvency** rankings, India has moved from 108th to 52nd position and in the **Global Innovation** rankings, from 74th to 52nd position. India has improved its international ranking by 10 points in the **Logistics Performance Index**. India has moved from 52nd to 34th position in the World Economic Forum's **Travel and Tourism Competitiveness** rankings.

These reforms in diverse areas are also a call to the international community to see how India has strengthened its foundations in the last 5-6 years and how keen the people of India are to build a new India.

Honourable Members,

My Government is following the mantra of **'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas'**, and is working with full commitment and sincerity. Free gas connections to 8 crore poor, houses to 2 crore poor, bank accounts to about 38 crore poor, free treatment facility of up to Rs.5 lakh to 50 crore people, insurance cover to 24 crore people and free electricity connections to over 2.5 crore people have been provided; with complete transparency and without any discrimination. My Government has provided equitable access to benefits and facilities of its schemes for the poor people; of all religions and all regions, and has, thus, earned the trust of the people of the country.

Honourable Members,

Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, the great son of Bengal and the Minister of Industry in the Government headed by Jawaharlal Nehru Ji, had said in the Lok Sabha: **"In a democratic federal state, the fundamental rights of the citizens of one constituent unit cannot vary vis-à-vis the citizens of another unit. Are not the people of Jammu and Kashmir entitled to the fundamental rights that we have given to the people of India minus Jammu and Kashmir?"**

Today, after seven decades, the whole country is happy that the dream of crores of freedom fighters including Dr. Mukherjee has come true and the people of Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh, the dalits and women from that area have also got the same rights as the people in the rest of the country. The abrogation of Article 370 and Article 35A of the Constitution by two-thirds majority in both the Houses of Parliament is not only historic but has also paved the way for equitable development of Jammu - Kashmir and Ladakh. Through this House, I heartily congratulate the people of Jammu - Kashmir and Ladakh for joining the mainstream of development.

Honourable Members,

Rapid development of Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh, preservation of their culture and traditions, transparent and honest administration and democratic empowerment are among the priorities of my Government. During the President's Rule and since becoming a Union Territory, all the developmental projects in Jammu - Kashmir and Ladakh have gained momentum.

Towards the end of the year 2018, elections in more than 4,400 panchayats of Jammu - Kashmir were conducted in a peaceful manner. For the first time since independence, elections to more than 300 **Block Development Councils** have also been held there. The people there are now getting full benefits under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Ujjwala Yojana, Ayushman Yojana, Ujala Yojana, **DBT** and food subsidy, in a transparent manner. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, while around **3,500** houses were built in Jammu - Kashmir till March 2018, in less than two years thereafter, construction of more than **24,000** houses has been completed.

Apart from this, works relating to connectivity, irrigation, hospitals, schemes related to tourism and establishment of institutes of higher education such as **IIT, IIM, AIIMS** are also proceeding at a rapid pace in Jammu -Kashmir and Ladakh. **NAFED** has been entrusted with the responsibility for the direct procurement of apples in Jammu - Kashmir. This has especially benefited the apple growers of Kashmir Valley.

Honourable Members,

The success of the public welfare schemes of my Government and the historic decisions taken by the Government have increased the expectations of the countrymen, as well as the responsibilities of the Government.

For many years, the people of the country desired that they should be able to pay their respects at Kartarpur Sahib with ease. My Government has built the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor in record time, and dedicated it to the nation on the occasion of 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. It is a privilege for my Government to have got the opportunity to celebrate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji with full veneration, within the country and abroad. The 400th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji will also be celebrated in a befitting manner with full grandeur and devotion by my Government.

Honourable Members,

Over 40 lakh people living in the capital city of Delhi, had been living for many years in the hope that one day they would get the ownership rights of their homes and that they will be able to lead a dignified life. The Government has fulfilled this long awaited expectation of people living in more than 1,700 colonies of Delhi.

Farmers, agricultural labourers, unorganized sector labourers and small traders of the country had expectations of a pension scheme that would be of help to them in their old age. My Government has not only fulfilled their wish, but also has covered about 60 lakh beneficiaries so far, under these pension schemes.

Pujya Bapu always considered cleanliness next to Godliness. On the occasion of Gandhi ji's 150th birth anniversary, on 2 October last year, rural areas of the country have paid a befitting tribute to the Father of the Nation by declaring themselves free from open defecation. Now it is incumbent on all of us to make our cities and villages even more clean and beautiful in the coming decade.

Honourable Members,

Even today, there are about 15 crore houses without piped water supply in rural areas of the country. Our sisters and daughters face the maximum hardship due to lack of water supply in the house. Further, contaminated water adversely impacts the health of the entire family. In order to ensure the availability of sufficient quantity of potable drinking water to each rural household in the country, my Government has launched the Jal Jeevan Mission. Central Government, all State Governments, local bodies and voluntary organizations are working together to transform this Mission into a people's movement. In the coming days Rs.3 lakh 60 thousand crore will be spent on this scheme. My Government has launched the Atal Bhujal Yojana with special focus on seven of the most vulnerable States of the country, where ground water level is depleting rapidly.

Honourable Members,

My Government's mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas is meant for every citizen and for every region and every State of the country. My Government believes that just as advancement of a person on the margins of society should be given high priority, the development of the areas left behind should also receive greater attention.

By according 112 districts the status of **Aspirational Districts**, the Government is paying special attention to each scheme relating to development of the poor living there. State Governments have also positioned the right mix of experienced and youthful officers in these districts. As a result, there has been impressive improvement in several development indicators in these districts and many districts have now come close to their State average. I congratulate and convey my best wishes to the team of each Aspirational District through this House.

Honourable Members,

More than the physical distance of the North East from Delhi, it was the emotional disconnect that disheartened the people of the region. My Government has transformed this situation by working tirelessly during the last five years. Work is being done at an unprecedented pace in the North East to enhance connectivity, strengthen infrastructure and make people's lives easier. As a result of these efforts of the Government, by 2022, the capitals of Sikkim, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland will be connected to the rail network. The work on Agartala-Akhaura rail link is also progressing at a fast pace. In the year 2022, the construction of the new airport being built at 'Holongi' in Arunachal Pradesh will also be completed.

Besides this, construction of AIIMS in Guwahati, bio-refinery in Numaligarh and sports university in Manipur are also progressing at a fast pace. Recently, the Government has

sanctioned about Rs.9,000 crore for the North East Gas Grid Project. This project will lay the foundation of a **Gas Based Economy** in all the 8 States of the North East.

The Central and Assam Governments have recently signed a historic agreement with the Bodo Organizations to bring an end to the 5 decade-old Bodo dispute. With this agreement, a complex problem, that has claimed more than 4000 lives, has been resolved. After this agreement, the Government will spend Rs.1500 crore for the development of Bodo community. Similarly, another landmark agreement between Tripura, Mizoram, the Central Government and the Bru community has not only resolved a decades-old problem but has also ensured a secure life for thousands of people belonging to the Bru community.

Honourable Members,

My Government is committed to bringing the brothers and sisters from the tribal community of the country into the mainstream of development. For the first time, Government has extended the benefit of **MSP** to forest produce. My Government's special emphasis is on the health, education and skill development of the tribals. Only a few weeks ago, the Government has launched a programme for opening more than 400 Eklavya Model Residential Schools in the country. Recently, reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies has also been extended for the next ten years.

Honourable Members,

My Government is also constantly striving for the social, economic and educational progress of the minority community. Through Hunar Haat, employment opportunities have been provided to 2 lakh 65 thousand skilled artisans belonging to the minority community. Scholarships have been granted in large numbers to Muslim students to enable them to continue their education without interruption.

On the special request of my Government, an unprecedented increase in Haj quota was made by Saudi Arabia as a result of which a record 2 lakh Indian Muslims performed the Haj this time. India is the first country where the entire process of Haj pilgrimage has been made digital and online. The Government is also undertaking 100 per cent digitization of Waqf properties across the country so that these properties can be utilised for the welfare of the Muslim community.

Honourable Members,

My Government is working with utmost sensitivity towards fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the divyangjan. Along with increase in reservations and legal empowerment, more than 1000 Government buildings and more than 700 railway stations have been made accessible for divyangjan. In the last 5 years, aids and assistive devices worth Rs.900 crore were distributed to the divyangjan by organising camps. The Government is creating a national database of divyangjan and **e-Unique Identification Cards** have been issued to more than 25 lakh divyangjan. My Government, in its previous term, had undertaken a special initiative for preparing the **Indian Sign Language Dictionary**. It gives me pleasure to inform the House that a special dictionary of 6 thousand words has been prepared.

Honourable Members,

India has always believed in the principle of equal respect for all faiths. However, at the time of Partition, this very belief of India and of its people came under the most severe attack. In the environment prevailing in the aftermath of partition, the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi had said: **"Hindus and Sikhs of Pakistan, who do not wish to live there, can come to India. It is the duty of the Government of India to ensure a normal life for them."** Many national leaders and political parties have from time to time supported this idea of Pujya Bapu and further propagated it. It is our responsibility to honour this wish of the founding fathers of our nation. I am happy that both the Houses of Parliament have fulfilled this wish, by enacting the Citizenship Amendment Act. At a time when the country is celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhi ji, all of you have given paramount consideration to this sentiment. I congratulate both the Houses of Parliament and all the MPs for this.

Honourable Members,

We have all been witness to the increase in the atrocities on minorities in Pakistan over time. We have all seen what happened in Nankana Sahib recently. It is the responsibility of all of us to bring the atrocities being committed in Pakistan to the notice of the global community.

While condemning the atrocities on the minorities in Pakistan, I urge the world community to take cognizance of it and take necessary steps in this regard.

Honourable Members,

My Government would like to clarify once again that the procedures which have existed for people from all faiths of the world who believe in India and who wish to obtain Indian citizenship, remain unchanged. A person of any faith can follow these processes and become a citizen of India. The Government has made several provisions to ensure that granting citizenship to those who have been compelled to take shelter in India does not have any adverse cultural impact on any region, especially the North East.

Honourable Members,

The great saint poet of India, Thiruvalluvar had said -

'Urruvar Ulgattaark AaniyaTattraad, Erru-vaare Ellaam Porutt'

That is, "Like a linchpin of an axle, a farmer holds together the entire world. He bears the burden of those people who cannot cultivate land."

Our country is indebted to our farmers who are our annadata, because of whose hard work we are self-reliant in foodgrain. Bringing about a change in the lives of farmers who serve the country selflessly and development of rural areas, are the priorities of my Government. The Government is going to spend an amount of Rs.25 lakh crore in the coming years to strengthen the rural economy. Government is working on a strategy to develop an income centric system aimed at doubling the income of farmers.

Honourable Members,

Under the Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi, more than Rs.43 thousand crore has been deposited in the bank accounts of more than 8 crore farmer families. On 2nd January this month, my Government has created a record by transferring Rs.12 thousand crore to the bank accounts of 6 crore farmers simultaneously.

My Government is working with dedication to provide the farmers, prices which are one and a half times the input cost. Steady increase in **MSP** for Kharif and Rabi crops is a step in this direction. Due to the efforts of the Government the procurement of pulses and oilseeds has increased by more than 20 times.

Honourable Members,

My Government is also promoting alternative farming practices. Along with cluster-based horticulture, organic farming is also being promoted and propagated. The production of honey has increased by about 60 per cent due to the efforts made by the Government in this area. The export of honey has also more than doubled. In order to build further on this accomplishment, the National Bee-Keeping and Honey Mission has been approved.

The twin objectives of doubling the fishermen's income and fish production are sought to be achieved through the newly created Department of Fisheries. A massive drive is being organized with the aim of ensuring the health of more than 50 crore livestock of the country. Under the National Animal Disease Control Programme, an amount of Rs.13 thousand crore is being spent on immunization and other measures to protect the cattle **from Foot and Mouth Disease.**

Honourable Members,

My Government along with the State Governments is working with sensitivity to provide relief to farmers from natural calamities. Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, on an average, every year, more than five and a half crore farmers are availing crop insurance cover at a very low premium. Under this scheme in the last three years, claims of farmers to the tune of Rs.57 thousand crore have been settled.

The impact of **e-NAM**, the online national market for farmers has also started becoming visible. 1 crore 65 lakh farmers and about 1 lakh 25 thousand traders of the country have been linked to it. About Rs.90 thousand crore worth of business has been transacted through this platform. In order to further enhance the effectiveness of **e-NAM** in this decade, work is underway to link more than 400 new mandis with it.

Honourable Members,

The health of an individual has impact on the development of both the family and the country. My Government is working with a holistic approach in the area of health. Serious efforts are being made at every level in preventive and curative healthcare. Many schemes such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Jal Jeevan Mission, Poshan Abhiyan, Fit India Movement, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, are contributing to improving the health of the people.

The wide ranging impact of the Ayushman Bharat Scheme on the health sector of the country is visible. Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, so far 75 lakh poor have availed free treatment. More than 27 thousand Health and Wellness Centres have also been set up.

Honourable Members,

Due to the decisions taken by my Government, medical expenses of the poor and the middle class have been reduced considerably. Capping of prices of more than 1000 essential medicines has resulted in a saving of Rs.12,500 crore for the patients. Reduced cost of stents and knee-implants has provided huge relief to lakhs of patients. Every day 5 to 7 lakh patients are now purchasing medicines for serious ailments at affordable prices from more than 6,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

By setting up the National Medical Commission, my Government has reaffirmed its commitment to reform medical education and healthcare. 75 new medical colleges have been sanctioned this year, which will result in an increase in **MBBS** seats by about 16 thousand and **PG** seats by more than 4 thousand. In addition, 22 **AIIMS** have been sanctioned for various parts of the country, construction work for which is in progress.

My Government is also making special efforts to improve the health of women. Under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, about Rs.5 thousand crore has been transferred by the Government directly to the bank accounts of 1 crore 20 lakh women of the country. Under Mission Indradhanush, 3 crore 50 lakh infants and about 90 lakh pregnant women have been vaccinated. Benefits of these schemes are particularly visible in areas inhabited by dalits and tribals. My Government has also started making oxo-biodegradable sanitary napkins 'Suvidha' available for just one rupee.

Honourable Members,

Because of the efforts of my Government to promote entrepreneurship and livelihood for women, more than 6 crore 60 lakh women have already joined the Self Help Group movement. These women are being provided credit at low interest rates. In order to provide equal opportunities, for the first time women have been allowed to work during the night shift also in both under-ground and open cast mines. It is with this same objective of promoting gender equality that admission of girls has been permitted in Sainik Schools for the first time. Appointment of women in the Military Police is also underway. For the first time the Indian Air Force is providing new opportunities for women to work in the fighter stream and as defence attachés.

Honourable Members,

My Government is working with sensitivity for ensuring the safety of women. In order to enhance women's safety, more than 600 One Stop Centers have been set up in the country. A national database has been created to identify the perpetrators of crimes against women. More than 1 thousand Fast Track Special Courts will be set up across the country to ensure speedy justice in such cases. It has also been decided to set up a **Women Help Desk** in every police

station of the country. For heinous crimes like sexual offence against children, Government has made a provision even for capital punishment.

Honourable Members,

The 21st century is referred to as the Century of Knowledge and the priority of the Government is to prepare the youth to provide leadership in this field. In the areas related to Research, Innovation, Incubation and Start-Ups, it is the youth who will be at the forefront in this decade. The youth are benefitting continuously from the policy decisions taken by my Government in this regard. Today, India is home to the world's third largest start-up ecosystem. Under the Start-Up India campaign, recognition has been accorded to 27 thousand new start-ups in the country. The number of patents granted in the country has increased four times in the last five years, whereas trademark registrations have increased five-fold.

Through the Skill India Mission and National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme, along with skill development the youth are also being provided with necessary funds for self-employment. More than 5 crore 54 lakh new entrepreneurs in the country have availed loans under the Mudra scheme. So far, credit in excess of Rs.10 lakh crore has been sanctioned under this scheme.

Honourable Members,

My Government is laying emphasis on schemes aimed at improving quality of education and promoting innovation. More than Rs.37 thousand crore has been sanctioned for modernization of 75 educational institutions in the country through the **Higher Education Funding Agency** (HEFA). Government has initiated action for appointment of about 7 thousand teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas and 12 thousand teachers in Higher Education Institutions. 'Swayam2' has also been introduced by the Government to strengthen the online education system.

I am delighted to inform you that for the first time ever in the history of the country, number of girls admitted in higher education has exceeded that of boys.

Honourable Members,

Our youth have the potential to transform India into a great sporting power in the world. Under various schemes, including the Khelo India programme and the Olympic Podium Scheme, young talent is being identified and provided with requisite training to compete at the highest level. The third phase of Khelo India programme has been successfully concluded in Guwahati just a few days back. It is worth noting that 80 new national records were set there, of which 56 were set by women.

Honourable Members,

This year 1st August marks the hundredth death anniversary of the great freedom fighter, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, who had given the clarion call that Swaraj is our birth right. After attainment of Swaraj, the nation has now started moving towards Suraaj. Moving rapidly towards the goal of Suraaj, my Government is working at three levels:

- First - Transforming the work culture in Government and strengthening institutions,
- Second - Use of modern technology to promote transparency, and
- Third - promoting healthy competition and public participation at the grassroot level.

Honourable Members,

Following the fundamental principle of **"Minimum Government, Maximum Governance"**, several reforms have been undertaken by the Government. With its recent abolition of **58** more laws, the number of laws abolished by the Government has now reached about 1500. Reforms in recruitment process for every level are underway in order to promote transparency. The youth are benefitting from the decision to discontinue interviews for most of the Group B posts and Group C posts.

Honourable Members,

Coordination among Departments and dismantling of **silos** are absolutely essential for successful implementation of schemes. In this direction, organization of a common Foundation Course for officers of more than 20 Civil Services in October last year is an important step. Recently, the management of Indian Railways has also been restructured. To make the functioning of various Tribunals in the country more effective, the Tribunal system too is being reformed. New Ministries have also been created to facilitate better target orientation of schemes. Creation of the Ministry of Skill Development and the Ministry of Jal Shakti by the Government is an example of this thought process.

Honourable Members,

Fast and accurate delivery of Government services and benefits has been the hallmark of my Government. This has been made possible by application of technology as a basis of good governance on an unprecedented scale. Identification of beneficiaries in a transparent manner, transfer of 100 per cent assistance directly to bank accounts of beneficiaries and use of modern technology in monitoring of schemes have made the lives of the poor and the middle class easier. This technology will also help in improving the quality of life of our countrymen during this decade.

Honourable Members,

We are all aware that digital technology is the foundation of the Industrial Revolution **Industry 4.0**. My Government has focused on **Digital Access**, **Digital Inclusion** and **Digital Empowerment** in an unparalleled manner through the Digital India Programme in order to take full advantage of the Industrial Revolution in the 21st century. It is a matter of pride for the country that digital systems developed in India during the last five years have been a source of inspiration for several countries of the world.

Honourable Members,

Today, more than 121 crore people in the country have Aadhaar cards and about 60 crore people possess **RuPay** cards. A record value of Rs.2 lakh crore has been transacted

through **UPI** in December 2019. Recently, the Government has also launched a new version of the B**HIM App.**

The Government has linked about 450 schemes to Direct Benefit Transfer or **DBT** by using the **JAM** Trinity of Jan-Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile. An amount of over Rs.9 lakh crore has been directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries through **DBT**, during the last 5 years. By plugging the leakages, my Government has saved about Rs.1 lakh 70 thousand crore from going into the wrong hands.

The Government e-Marketplace, **GeM** has brought about transparency in Government procurement. **GeM** has not only opened up a huge market, in the form of the Government, for the small and micro entrepreneurs, it has also connected the Government directly with the entrepreneurs. During the last three years, about Rs.40 thousand crore worth of procurement has been done by different Government Departments through **GeM**.

By leveraging technology, my Government has taken several major steps to end the Inspector Raj. Now we are also developing a system in the Income Tax Department which would be devoid of any human interface. This system will increase transparency and improve work culture in the tax department.

Honourable Members,

Technology plays a major role in bringing cities and villages closer. So far, more than 1 lakh 25 thousand Gram Panchayats have been connected with high speed broadband under the BharatNet scheme. In 2014, there were 60 thousand Common Service Centres in rural areas of the country, which have now increased to more than 3 lakh 65 thousand. This has provided employment to more than 12 lakh villagers. Through these centres, the Government is delivering more than 45 services in rural areas.

Honourable Members,

In order to strengthen the spirit of **Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat**, My Government is developing integrated and organized systems for the countrymen, through use of technology.

Recently, **One Nation, One FasTag** has been launched to ensure **seamless mobility** in the country. **One Nation One Mobility Card** has enabled use of the same card for different modes of transport across different States. **One Nation, One Ration Card** is also being launched by the Government. One Nation, One Tax, that is **GST**, has also promoted transparency in trade and commerce through use of technology. In the pre **GST** period, more than two dozen different taxes had to be paid. Now, not only the complex tax web has come to an end, the incidence of tax has also been reduced.

Honourable Members,

In a federal country like India it is imperative for fast paced development, that States compete with each other in development schemes; and also share experiences with each other. My Government has therefore been consistently emphasizing **Competitive Cooperative Federalism**. The Government is ranking States on the basis of **real time data** collected at

district and village level. Its impact is visible in various areas ranging from Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to Ease of **Doing Business** and Smart City Mission to **Aspirational District Programme**.

Information collected during the **Census** plays a crucial role in enabling Governments in formulation of appropriate schemes and targeted interventions. This time digital technology is being used, in the conduct of **Census**, to collect information so as to complete the process expeditiously.

My Government is committed to protecting privacy amidst the increasing use of digital technology. To fulfil this commitment, Government has introduced the **Data Protection Bill** in the Parliament.

Honourable Members,

My Government is committed to attaining the goal of making India a USD 5 trillion economy. Towards this objective, Government is making efforts at all levels of the economy, in consultation with all stakeholders. In spite of global challenges, the fundamentals of Indian economy are strong. Our foreign exchange reserves have reached a historical high of over USD 450 billion. Inflow of **Foreign Direct Investment** to India is also on the rise. As compared to last year, **FDI** has increased by USD 3 billion between April and October this year.

On the other hand, merger of small Public Sector Banks has strengthened them and improved their lending capacity. In the first half of this financial year, 12 Public Sector Banks have reported profits. Due to the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code**, nearly Rs.3.5 lakh crores have also been recovered by the banks and other institutions. Reduction of corporate tax and the codification of Labour Laws will increase ease of doing business in India.

Honourable Members,

My Government is providing impetus to **Make in India** to accelerate the growth rate of the economy and to boost manufacturing and exports. Government is developing two defence corridors in Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh, in addition to 5 Industrial Corridors in the country.

Honourable Members,

India is making rapid strides in electronics manufacturing sector in particular. National Policy on Electronics has been formulated to give further impetus to the manufacturing of mobile phones, TVs and other electronic devices. The value of electronic equipment manufactured in the country has increased to Rs.4 lakh 58 thousand crore in 2018-19, as against Rs.1 lakh 90 thousand crore in 2014-15. In 2014, there were only 2 companies manufacturing mobiles in India. Today India is the second largest mobile manufacturing hub in the world. Make in India is also being encouraged by the Government in automobile sector and railways. Full indigenous manufacturing of modern trains like Vande Bharat and Tejas Express is in progress.

Honourable Members,

The fundamental mantra of independence was a Self-reliant India. A self-reliant India is possible only when every Indian takes pride in every product made in India. My Government believes in the mantra of **'Buy local for a better tomorrow'**. I urge every representative of the people, from Panchayat level to the Parliament, and every Government in the country, to transform the philosophy of 'Buy local for a better tomorrow' into a movement. I also urge every Indian to give priority to local products. By using locally manufactured products, you will be able to help the small entrepreneurs in your area to a great extent.

Honourable Members,

The poor and the middle classes hope and aspire for a modern 21st century infrastructure in the country. To fulfil this aspiration of the people more than Rs.100 lakh crore will be invested in the next five years. With a special emphasis on connectivity, the Government is also focusing on creation of new highways, new waterways, new airways, and new I-ways.

Rural roads contribute significantly to the country's infrastructure. Rural roads have now been expanded to every corner of the country through the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana. Third phase of the programme has been launched to strengthen rural roads and connect them to schools, hospitals and agricultural markets. 1 lakh 25 thousand kilometers of roads will be constructed and upgraded under this programme.

Inland waterways are also being developed by the Government. In December 2019, for the first time, container cargo reached Pandu in Assam via National Water Way-2. Under the Jal Marg Vikas Project, the multi-modal terminal at Haldia on River Ganga and the navigation lock at Farakka will be completed this year. It is also our endeavour to operate large transport cargo vessels on River Ganga by next year.

Rapid progress is being made towards providing better public transport facilities in urban areas. Metro facility has now been extended to 18 cities in the country. So far, 670 km of metro lines have been operationalized, and work on another 930 km is underway. The residents of Delhi and NCR have greatly benefitted from the construction of Delhi-Meerut Expressway, as well as from Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways.

Honourable Members,

Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities of the country are emerging in a new role towards achieving the goal of USD 5 trillion economy. The progress of small cities in areas relating to sanitation, amenities, start-ups or other commercial activities has been encouraging. Since 2014, start-ups in small cities have grown at a rate of 45 to 50 per cent. Similarly, about 35 lakh people have so far travelled by air under the UDAN scheme. Last year, 335 new air routes have been approved. It is estimated that in the coming years, more than half of the country's digital transactions will take place in these tier-2 and tier-3 cities.

My Government is doing its utmost to fulfil the developmental aspirations of small cities and the new middle class. The middle class in small towns has also benefitted the most from tax exemption on income up to Rs.5 lakhs. The middle class families with annual income of up to Rs.18 lakhs are able to save between Rs.5 to 6 lakh on home loans with tenure up to 20 years. It

is the middle class that will benefit the most from the Rs.25 thousand crore fund provided by the Government for completion of stalled housing projects.

Honourable Members,

India is playing an effective role globally in the field of **clean energy**. Due to the efforts of the Government, LPG coverage in the country has increased from 55 per cent to about 97 per cent. City gas distribution is now being extended to **407** districts of the country. Now we are moving towards a **gas-based** economy.

Keeping environment conservation in mind, my Government has enhanced the target for producing renewable energy to 450 gigawatts. Under the Pradhan Mantri-Kusum Yojana, it has been targeted to provide more than 17 lakh solar pumps to farmers across the country. Similarly, under the second phase of the solar roof top programme, the target is to generate 38 gigawatt of electricity.

Honourable Members,

The efforts of the countrymen have made it possible to expand India's tree and forest cover by 13 thousand square kilometers during the last four years. Similarly, the number of tigers has increased to 2,967 in July 2019 from 2,226 in 2014, which is a matter of satisfaction.

To address the issue of air and water pollution, the Government will be implementing the National Clean Air Programme in 102 cities of the country. I am glad that the positive impact of the Namami Gange Mission launched by the Government has now started becoming visible. Under this mission, projects worth Rs.7 thousand crore have been completed and projects worth more than Rs.21 thousand crore are in progress.

The impact of all these efforts is also visible on the country's tourism sector. During the last few years, there has been extraordinary development of infrastructure related to tourism. Recently a nationwide programme has been launched from Kolkata for conservation and beautification of the heritage buildings of the country. The tourism sector is also being strengthened by the modern infrastructure being developed under Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD schemes. New records are being created every day in the number of tourists visiting the 'Statue of Unity', the statue of Sardar Patel; which is the tallest in the world.

Honourable Members,

It is the belief of my Government that paying tribute to the great personalities who dedicated their lives to the nation and contributed towards preserving the heritage of the country is an important part of nation building. With this idea, museums celebrating the contributions made by the brave tribals, both men and women, during our freedom struggle are being set up in different States. The 250th birth anniversary of the great social reformer Raja Ram Mohan Roy, whose teachings guided the nation, will also be celebrated in 2022 by the Government in a befitting manner.

Honourable Members,

The objective of India's space programme has always been service to humanity. Due to the tireless work of country's space scientists, Chandrayaan-2 has stimulated a new interest in technology among the country's youth. My Government has already approved Chandrayaan-3. **ISRO** is also working expeditiously on the manned spacecraft programme – Gaganyaan, as well as Aditya-1 Mission.

Honourable Members,

In these evolving times, to meet the new and complex challenges related to the defence of the country, my Government is working to make the defence forces stronger, more effective and modern. The appointment of **CDS**, the **Chief of Defence Staff** and creation of the **Department of Military Affairs** are steps in this direction. This will also improve coordination among the three services, while speeding up their modernization and the process of making them self-reliant.

We are fully attentive to the requirements of our security forces, including adequate armaments, safety equipment and bullet proof jackets. Manufacture of state-of-the-art **AK 203** rifles, in collaboration with Russia, will commence in the Ordnance Factory at Amethi in Uttar Pradesh. Recently, when the **Naval Prototype** of Tejas landed and took off from **INS** Vikramaditya, every Indian was filled with pride. The Government has also taken historic steps in enhancing space security. With the successful testing of **A-Sat**, India has become the fourth country in the world to attain strike capability in space.

Honourable Members,

My Government is working with full strength and determination to free the country from the scourge of terrorism. In view of the changing nature of terrorism, alertness on the part of the citizens is extremely helpful. The decrease in terrorist activities in Jammu Kashmir demonstrates that public cooperation can be effective in the fight against terrorism. My Government has given the security forces a free hand in taking the strongest measures against those indulging in terrorism. The security situation in the North East has also improved significantly due to the concerted efforts of the Government. The geographical spread of Naxalism is also steadily shrinking.

Honourable Members,

My Government is of the view that foreign policy is a vital ingredient of the country's economic and strategic security. We are stimulating economic growth and prosperity by increasing connectivity with our neighbouring countries. "**Neighbourhood First**" policy is our priority. Apart from our neighbours, we have also strengthened relations with other countries of the world. This is why a number of countries have bestowed their highest honour on India. Our cooperation with ASEAN and African countries is being taken to a new level.

After International Solar Alliance, India has been at the forefront of a global partnership, **Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure-CDRI**. This step aimed at mitigating natural disasters will further strengthen India's stature as a sensitive world power.

Honourable Members,

This decade, which has just begun, will determine India's global standing in the times to come. The world will witness an inclusive, prosperous, capable and powerful New India in this decade. Hence it is the bounden duty of every Member of this House and every countryman to strive hard with all their capability to achieve their respective goals.

We should all strive to make every citizen conscious of and dedicated to his duties in the national interest, and ensure that this sense of responsibility becomes the guiding principle of our civic life. Come, let us together make this decade of 2020 the decade of fulfilling our duties.

We must always remember that we are first and foremost citizens of this country, and leaders or supporters of a particular ideology thereafter. The prestige of our country should be more important than our party loyalties.

It is my belief that in the times to come, all of us together, drawing inspiration from the glorious past of our country, will make every possible effort to ensure a bright future for the country; and that we will also succeed in our endeavour.

Let us all come together to fulfil the dream of a New India; let us together make a New India.

Jai Hind !!!



Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind arriving in procession at the Central Hall of Parliament House to address the Members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on 31 January 2020.

ADDRESS OF THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI OM BIRLA AT THE 25TH CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH (CSPOC) HELD IN OTTAWA, CANADA FROM 6-10 JANUARY, 2020.

The 25th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) was held in Ottawa, Canada from 6-10 January, 2020. Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla headed a Parliamentary Delegation to the Conference and Addressed on the theme *'Security of individuals in the Parliamentary context and Beyond'* with Sub-themes on - Emerging cyber security issues and implications on parliamentary privilege; Social media as an effective tool, not a weapon; and Ensuring continued access, yet security of individuals.

Hon'ble Speaker also addressed on the theme *'Inclusive Parliaments: the role of the Speaker in supporting emerging procedures and practices embracing the changing face and needs of the Parliament'* and *'Challenges and Opportunities Arising from the Displacement of a Parliamentary Assembly'.*

We reproduce the texts of the Addresses delivered by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla.

--- Editor

Address on the theme 'Security of individuals in the Parliamentary context and Beyond' with Sub-themes on - Emerging cyber security issues and implications on parliamentary privilege; Social media as an effective tool, not a weapon; and Ensuring continued access, yet security of individuals.

Hon'ble Chairperson, Distinguished delegates:

I deem it my privilege to have this opportunity to share my views with this august gathering on this important subject, "*Security of individuals in the Parliamentary Context and Beyond*" with reference to the emerging cyber security issues and its implications on parliamentary privileges, social media as an effective tool and ensuring continued access, yet securing the security of individuals. As a representative and law-making body, there is no doubt that Parliament holds a pivotal position in any democratic system, and the way in which Parliaments connect with the people has changed today with the arrival of internet and a variety of social networking tools.

Nothing explains it better than the definition of e-Parliament given in the World e-Parliament Report – 2018 brought out by none other than the Inter Parliamentary Union, Geneva.

I Quote:

"An e-Parliament places technologies, knowledge and standards at the heart of its business processes and embodies the values of collaboration, inclusiveness, participation and openness to the people."

Unquote

We in India too, have witnessed a significant rise in cyber space activities and we have not only become one of the major IT destinations in the world, but have the third largest number of internet users in the world today. The number of internet users in our country has grown six fold between 2012-2017, with a compound annual growth rate of 44 per cent. Such phenomenal growth in access to information and connectivity has, on the other hand, empowered the citizens, on the other hand, it has also posed new challenges because of the need to tackle the emerging cyber crime that comes along with it.

The emergence of the internet, especially in the last two decades, has been a boon for parliaments too, as the digital technologies allow parliaments to create, modernize and manage more complex activities enabling members to closely follow the legislative process. They have the potential for revitalizing public engagement in political discussions and the decision-making processes. I am sure, the Parliaments would find it difficult to manage information, track things like the Bills and amendments, etc. without the support of such systems. In the Indian Parliament, we have been using the Information and Communication Technologies in the legislative document management also for quite some time now. We have a well maintained website of our Parliament where all the recent proceedings, Bills, documents, speeches, debates, discussions, *etc* can be found easily by anyone around the world at the click of the mouse. Digital tools have indeed increased peoples' access to the documents and activities of the Parliament and in the process, enhancing its accountability and transparency of the system. Digitization also facilitates the emergence of a significantly transparent and accountable government through the means of the adoption of e-Voting and e-Participation options. e-Democracy contributes towards making democracy more accessible to citizens by increasing their participation and involvement in decision-making.

There is no doubt that the Information and Communication Technologies has brought in tremendous transformation in all spheres of our lives, and have offered new opportunities enabling us to achieve more in less time. The application cuts across all fields, be it medicine, commerce, engineering, architecture, education, library services or agriculture. Information and Communication Technologies have been transforming our society, our economy, and virtually all spheres of our lives as it applies to almost every aspect of our lives. The development of *e-parliaments* or *e-legislatures* transformed the way in which we fulfill our responsibilities as representatives of the people. We also use it to make our Parliament much more efficient and strive to give greater access to government services and make legislators more representative. To improve parliamentary process, the use of ICT seems inevitable to me.

"In fact the e-Parliament Report 2018 of Inter Parliamentary Union, Geneva has also flagged some important trends which need our immediate attention as Presiding Officer. They include:

(i) Digital technologies are now firmly embedded with clearly identified governance and technology practices in most parliaments. In parallel, while members

remain politically committed to ICT, their managerial role is diminishing as ICT becomes more embedded in Parliament's work.

(ii) The rise in the adoption of eXtensible Markup Language (XML) has levelled off, suggesting it is now a mature technology for parliaments – in some cases because the systems have now been implemented, but in others because the need has yet to be recognized.

(iii) The use of instant messaging has seen a significant increase, and social media use also continues to rise.

(iv) Digital broadcasting and video streaming have overtaken traditional broadcasting, while the use of radio has shown the first signs of shrinking.

(v) Barriers to greater use of ICT include training and skill deficits among staff and members, and growing concerns over security and reliability. Knowledge of how parliaments work is seen as the biggest barrier to greater citizen engagement.

(vi) Over a third of the parliaments surveyed now collaborate directly with parliamentary monitoring organizations (PMOs).

(vii) Inter-parliamentary support is needed in strong demand in many areas of ICT, ranging from the new media and social tools to traditional ICT functions.

As we all are aware, social media has expanded its reach beyond territorial boundaries and connected parliamentarians and peoples across the globe. As per the 2016 world e-parliament Report, social media tools overtook television and radio for the first time as the most commonly used media for communicating with the citizens. Social media can help in promoting good governance and expose abuses of power and corruption by those in power. Given its characteristics of immediate outreach, it offers a unique opportunity to engage with the stakeholders. Many governments across the world as well as many government agencies in India are using various social media platforms to reach out to the citizens, businesses and experts to seek inputs into policy making, get feedback on service delivery, create community based programmes, etc. An e-Portal, namely the Members' Portal is offering several online services to the Members including submission of Notices for various Parliamentary devices in electronic form, online references, etc. Necessary changes in the Rules have been made to facilitate the Members to submit their Petitions online as well.

Social media is increasingly becoming an integral part of life as the websites and applications pertaining to them are proliferating. At the same time, let us also remember that cyberspace, taking a centre stage at the social media platform, is vulnerable to a wide variety of incidents and can be exploited. However, it has also some side effects. Some of the visible disadvantages of social media for the society include Cyber bullying; Hacking; Addiction; Fraud and Scams; Security Issues; potential for misuse damaging someone's reputation; health issues; etc. As such, a prudent Cyber Security Policy is indeed the need of the hour. In fact, one of the most serious challenges of the twenty-first century could perhaps be in the area of information security due to its existing and potential threats, as this may cause substantial damage to national and international security.

The new information technologies have also the potential to be manipulated by miscreants and antisocial elements. The anonymity and borderless characteristics associated

with cyber space has enormous potential for damage and mischief. This characteristics makes cyber security a major concern across the globe since it is being exploited by criminals and terrorists to carry out identity theft, steal information, plant malicious software, etc. All these can have implications even on parliamentary privileges that Members enjoy in discharging their duties. Intercepting the mobile phone messages of elected Members, tapping their phones, bugging their conversations, intercepting their e-mails, etc. can not only be criminal, but could also be a breach of parliamentary privilege especially if it happens to be centred around the words spoken and acts done in the course of transacting the business of either House of Parliament or of a committee. Let us remember that parliamentary privilege consists of the rights and immunities which the two Houses of Parliament and their members and officers possess to enable them to carry out their parliamentary functions effectively. The emergence of cloud and mobile technology has further complicated the cyber threat landscape. All this makes cyber security an issue of critical importance with deep implications.

In India, we have our own coherent cyber security policy confirming to our national security and economic development. We are in fact, gearing up to bring in new encryption and privacy policies to take on growing cyber security challenges. Though 'Police' and 'Public Order' are subjects vested in the Provincial Legislatures by the Constitution of India, the law enforcement agencies take legal action as per the provisions of law against the cyber crime offenders. The Government of India has taken proactive steps to spread awareness about cyber crimes, issue of alerts/advisories, capacity building/training of law enforcement personnel/prosecutors/judicial officers, improving cyber forensics facilities, etc. to prevent such crimes and to speed up investigation. The Government has also launched the online cybercrime reporting portal, *www.cybercrime.gov.in*. The Government has also rolled out a scheme for the establishment of Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre to handle issues related to cybercrime in the country in a comprehensive and coordinated manner. Further, the Government of India has taken several steps to prevent and mitigate cyber security incidents.

Cyberspace taking a centre stage at the social media platform is vulnerable to a wide variety of incidents, whether intentional or accidental, man-made or natural, and the data exchanged in the cyberspace can be exploited for nefarious purposes by both nation- states and non-state actors. Tackling cybercrime requires a multi-stakeholder approach with inputs from all sectors. As such, countries around the world would further need to enhance the capacity to bring about more awareness, understanding and capacity to deploy appropriate strategies accordingly.

Friends, I am sure that our deliberations today will help us go a long way towards securing security of individuals in the parliamentary context and beyond from the emerging cyber security issues; using social media as an effective tool and ensuring continued access, while maintaining the security of individuals at the same time.

Thank you.

Intervention on the theme 'Inclusive Parliaments: the role of the Speaker in supporting emerging procedures and practices embracing the changing face and needs of the Parliament' during the 25th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) held in Ottawa, Canada from 6-10 January, 2020.

Hon'ble Chairperson and Distinguished Delegates:

It is a great honour and pleasure for me to address the distinguished Speakers of the Commonwealth Parliaments here today. We stand for democracy and participation. We are, perhaps, assigned the most important role, where our rulings decide, to a great extent, the inclusion, representation and participation in parliamentary democracy.

As a well-known saying goes, vision for a nation emanates from the Parliament. For Parliaments therefore, planning for the future or facing the future, means many things. It means responding to the pressures of a rapidly changing society and global system, while retaining what is distinctive about the country's tradition. It means being open to the ongoing reforms in their own procedures, so that these are made apposite to times. It can also mean engaging in long-term thinking about the country's future in a pro-active way, rather than simply reacting to initiatives placed before it by the Government.

Back home, in India, though the rules and regulations are framed by the respective Houses of our Parliament, their correct interpretation and proper application fully rest with the Speaker and the Chairman, as the case may be. The Speaker, who not merely by enforcing the rules but by his sagacious counsel, tact and persuasive skills, ensures that voices of all sections of the House are heard with an open mind.

During the deliberations in the House, whenever the situation demands or a clarification is sought on a point of order, the Speaker is required to interpret the rules, study past precedents and decisions, give directions and pronounce rulings after taking into consideration the provisions of the Constitution, the established parliamentary practices, customs, conventions and precedent. Many a time the Speaker has to use discretionary powers. The Speaker's ruling reflects the sense of the House, prevailing at that point of time.

Over the years, during the working of our Parliament, successive Speakers have laid down several rules, regulations and directions that have contributed significantly in the growth of our parliamentary practices and procedures. Several of the rulings delivered by my predecessors were of far-reaching importance in the running of not only of the House but even of other democratic institutions in the country. When they presided over the Lok Sabha, the country would witness their unique qualities as the institution-builders.

In this context, looking from a different perspective, I believe that our efforts towards strengthening democracy or its institutions should be closely linked to the capacity building of the representatives of people, who are duty-bound to raise matters of public importance in the House. So to accommodate their demands and also to be in tune with the changing face and need of the House, my humble efforts have been to bring in certain procedural changes in the existing Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the current i.e. Seventeenth Lok Sabha.

During the two Sessions that we had so far of the new Lok Sabha, maximum members were given opportunity to participate in the business of the house and in the process, many young members and political parties having representation of only one member have been benefitted. I am happy to share with you all here that more than 2000 matters of Urgent Public Importance were raised during these sessions.

Similarly, as yet another step towards capacity building of our members, a practice of holding Briefing Sessions on important Legislative Business before the House has been recently initiated. The objective is to improve the awareness of the members on the legislative issues before the House and thereby, facilitate a good debate and discussion.

Before I conclude, I would like to mention that in our endeavours to make our Parliament more inclusive and democratic, we believe and follow in true spirit what Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation, had once said and I quote, *Civilization is the encouragement of differences.* Through this, I must say, we evolve, settle and move on.

Thank you.

Intervention on the theme 'Challenges and Opportunities Arising from the Displacement of a Parliamentary Assembly' during the 25th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) held in Ottawa, Canada from 6-10 January, 2020.

Hon'ble Chairperson; Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

At the outset, I wish to express my deepest appreciation for the excellent arrangements made for the 25th CSPO Conference. We have been overwhelmed by the warm hospitality extended to us and we shall carry back home happy memories of this Conference.

As you all know, parliamentary buildings' architecture reflect national symbolism and aspirations of a State. Many parliaments were constructed and renovated in the mid-to-late nineteenth century. The renovation and rehabilitation of parliamentary buildings is one of the major concerns of legislatures all over the world. Legislatures around the world are getting facelifts in the wake of increased number and work of legislators. Renovation and construction offers numerous opportunities to the parliaments to make cultural, technological and physical changes that reconnect citizens with their parliaments and help strengthen democracy.

In many ways, parliaments represent the pinnacle of democratic process as crucial decisions are made here having bearing on the country's governance. It is not surprising that the buildings that house legislatures are often imposing as well as beautiful. By their very nature, parliamentary buildings are meant to represent the national character, tradition and cultural heritage of a State. The cultural values we attribute to our parliamentary buildings represent our identity as a collective society and therefore play an important role for the legislators to perform their work with efficiency and smoothness. I would like to mention here that indeed in many countries, the buildings housing parliaments or legislatures are widely recognised as national symbols.

The site and strong architecture of the parliamentary buildings set them apart and provide an invariable reminder to members of Parliament of the responsibility vested in the parliamentary system. Parliamentary buildings also contribute to a country's political culture. They carry forward the past, shape the present and condition the future of a country. Each of these tasks give rise to the need of renovation and rehabilitation of Parliamentary buildings, thinking broadly about a country's collective future in tune with changing circumstances and requirements.

Distinguished Delegates, there are two dozen of the still operational buildings of legislatures around the world which were completed in the 19th century, most of them in Europe and the America. The majority of present legislatures were constructed in the 20th century with Asia and Africa seeing almost all of their legislatures being opened during this period. Over the years, parliamentary buildings have evolved with the countries they represent withstanding the corroding effects of time and ever increasing usage. That being so, today parliamentary buildings across the world are faced with some of the most complicated issues in preservation, rehabilitation and renovation.

All of us have noticed that over the years, massive changes in the field of technology have taken place since the Parliament buildings were built. Planning and renovation of the buildings has to keep pace with changes of the day. Many issues have arisen over the years and are likely to escalate in the upcoming years. The several issues include the significant increase and changing work of members of Parliaments without corresponding increase in accommodation; need of integrated information technology infrastructure incorporating the latest technology in the buildings; deterioration of parliamentary buildings over a period of time and use of substandard and temporary facilities for members.

These issues have significantly led legislative institutions to rethink about renovation and rehabilitation in parliamentary buildings so as to reequip parliaments for the 21st century. Globally, there are numerous examples of major renovation programmes taken up for restoration of parliamentary buildings. The renovation programme must address the issues of space inadequacies for staff and members of parliament and preparing the Parliament for future maintaining the architectural and heritage integrity. Communication with staff and members is vital in managing the transition with a view to ensure completion of renovation programme in shortest possible timeframe involving the lowest capital cost and presenting fewer risks to the work of Parliament.

Coming to our country, one of the most magnificent buildings in India - the massive circular parliament house - is one of the brightest clusters of architectural gems possessed by any country. Our Parliament House was built with indigenous material and by Indian labour and the architecture of the building bears a close imprint of the Indian tradition. The ancient features of Indian art are mingled with modern scientific achievements in acoustic, air-conditioning and automatic vote recording system in the building.

Although, Parliament House has been declared a heritage building but the same cannot be treated at par with other heritage buildings since it is a living heritage building which require regular maintenance. Over the decades, several additions/alterations have been made to the building, mostly to create more space to accommodate the growing demands of a fast expanding institution. To maintain the heritage character and grandeur of the building, a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) has been constituted on Maintenance of Heritage Character and Development of Parliament House Complex headed by the Speaker of Lok Sabha. The JPC takes decisions to preserve, conserve and protect the heritage character of Parliament House and to protect its aesthetics and originality. In our Parliament, a branch with nomenclature “Heritage Management Branch” has also been created to ensure proper compliance of instructions/guidelines issued for maintenance of heritage character of Parliament House Complex.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is the nodal ministry looking after renovation and rehabilitation of parliamentary buildings in India. I would like to mention here that none of these works have ever had any major Procedural, Ceremonial or Administrative implications and have never affected business continuity.

The Parliament of India has completed 92 glorious years. With its growing mandate the responsibility of Parliament has also expanded. The facilities in Parliament House also need to be augmented to provide sufficient space to the members of Parliament and staff enabling New India to keep pace with the journey into the future.

We are working to have our Session in a new Parliament building when we celebrate 75 years of independence in 2022. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister dream project is to reconstruct buildings built between 1911 and 1927 including North Block, South Block, Rashtrapati Bhawan and the Parliament Building. As of now, the timeline devised to complete the project is November 2021 and work on the Parliament building is to be completed by March 2022 and the common Central Secretariat by March 2024.

We have now set the ball rolling for a massive redevelopment of New Delhi's iconic central vista, the stretch from Rashtrapati Bhawan to India Gate. This redevelopment has target to fulfil the needs of at least 250 years.

With these words, I have great pleasure in associating myself with this Conference. Though, we have made significant progress in upgrading our parliaments. However, I am sure, the deliberations of this Conference would go a long way in enabling all of us to share and learn from one another's experiences for building modern, world-class, state of the art energy-efficient parliamentary buildings accustomed to the needs of the time. I extend my best wishes for the success of the Conference.

Thank you.

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

Specialized Meetings/ Conferences:-

Inaugural Session of the People's Majlis of Maldives: The Inaugural Session of the People's Majlis of Maldives (Parliament of Maldives) was held in Male (Maldives) on 3 February, 2020. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha on behalf of our Parliament attended the above Session. Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Member of Parliament, during his visit to Male, Maldives also held meetings with the authorities concerned in Maldivian Majlis. The meetings were primarily aimed at devising mechanisms to take forward the Agreement of Cooperation signed between the two Parliaments and other matters discussed between the two Presiding Officers and the Secretariats of the two Parliaments during their respective recent interactions.

45th Session of the Steering Committee of Parliamentary Conference on the WTO: Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha participated in the meeting of the 45th Session of the Steering Committee of Parliamentary Conference on WTO held in Brussels (Belgium) on 20 February, 2020.

During the meeting following agenda items were discussed: (i) Reform of WTO; and (ii) Brief on the upcoming 2020 Annual Session of the Parliamentary Conference on WTO.

At the end of the Meeting a Statement was also adopted.

The 25th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth: An Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by Shri Om Birla, Speaker, Lok Sabha and consisting of Shri Harivansh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha and Smt. Snehlata Shrivastava, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha attended the 25th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) in Ottawa, Canada from 5 to 9 January, 2020. Shri P. C. Koul, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was Secretary to the Delegation.

The meeting of the CSPOC Standing Committee which was held on Monday, 6 January, 2020 was attended by Shri Om Birla, Speaker, Lok Sabha as representative of India. The Opening Ceremony of the Conference was held on Tuesday, 7 January, 2020.

The Conference held 4 Workshop Sessions and a Special Plenary as per details given: *Workshop 1:* "Parliamentary Engagement: Openness, Transparency and Accountability"; *Workshop 2:* "Challenges and Opportunities Arising from the Displacement of a Parliamentary Assembly"; *Workshop 3:* "Parliamentarians as Effective Legislators and Constituency Representatives: Evolving Support Required"; and *Workshop 4:* "Security of Individuals in the Parliamentary Context and Beyond".

Special Plenary: "Inclusive Parliaments: The Role of the Speaker in Supporting Emerging Procedures and Practices Embracing the Changing Face and Needs of Parliament".

Opening Plenary Sessions on the 4 topics of the Workshops were followed by separate Workshop Sessions. The Special Plenary was attended by all the delegates.

Shri Om Birla, Speaker, Lok Sabha was the Workshop Presenter in Workshop 4 on the topic "Security of Individuals in the Parliamentary Context and Beyond." After the presentation, Speaker, Lok Sabha also responded to various queries raised by the participants in the Workshop.

The Special Plenary was held on Thursday, 9 January, 2020 at 10:30 hours on the topic "Inclusive Parliaments: The Role of the Speaker in Supporting Emerging Procedures and Practices Embracing the Changing Face and Needs of Parliament." The delegates from Indian Parliament participated in the Special Plenary Session and other Workshops of the Conference.

On the sidelines of the Conference, Speaker, Lok Sabha and Delegation had meetings with his counterparts in the Canadian Senate and House of Commons and other dignitaries in Canada.

During their stay in Toronto, the Indian Parliamentary Delegation visited Ontario State Legislative Assembly as it is a heritage building and is undergoing major renovation. The Indian Delegation also had wide ranging discussions with the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Ted Arnott and his team regarding the renovation project. Speaker, Lok Sabha also addressed the distinguished gathering. The Indian Delegation also had a luncheon meeting with the Ministers, Members of Parliaments and Legislators from Ontario in Toronto. The Indian Parliamentary Delegation had meetings with Indian Diaspora in Ottawa and Toronto during the visit.

Speaker, Lok Sabha offered to host the CSPOC in 2026 which was unanimously approved both in the Executive Committee Meeting and the Conference.

The 7th CPA India Region Conference: The 7th CPA India Region Conference was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh from 15 to 19 January, 2020. Shri Om Birla, Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairperson of the CPA India Region inaugurated the Conference on Thursday, 16 January, 2020. Shri Hriday Narayan Dikshit, Speaker, Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha delivered the Welcome Address at the Opening Ceremony. Shri Yogi Adityanath, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh attended the Opening Ceremony and also addressed the distinguished gatherings.

The theme of the Conference was "Role of Legislators" encompassing the following two Topics: (i) Capacity Building of Legislators for scrutinizing Budgetary Proposals; and (ii) Enhancing Focus of Legislators on Legislative Business.

The Valedictory Session was held on Friday, 17 January, 2020. Shri Om Birla, Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha delivered the Valedictory Address. H. E. Smt. Anandiben Patel, Governor of Uttar Pradesh attended the Valedictory Session and addressed the Session.

The Conference was attended by the 30 Presiding Officers / Delegates from State / UT Branches in India Region and an Observer each from South East Asia and Australia Regions of CPA and Secretaries from the Union and State / UT Legislatures.

Meeting of the Recruitment of Secretary General, CPA: Shri Jayant Sinha, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha attended the meeting of Selection Panel as Member from CPA India Region for Recruitment of Secretary General, CPA at London from 27 February to 1 March, 2020.

The Selection Panel, comprising of representatives from the CPA Regions, recommended following candidates as next Secretary General and Reserve Candidate: (i) Mr. Stephen Twigg – BIM Region; and (ii) Ms. Gloria Somolekae – Africa Region (Reserve candidate for Secretary General, CPA)

The recommendation of the Selection Panel will be formally considered and approved by CPA Executive Committee at its Mid-Year Meeting scheduled to be held in Guwahati, India in June, 2020 or by circulation in view of the lockdown situation created by the ongoing Corona pandemic.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, and also on the birth anniversaries of former Speakers of Lok Sabha, functions are organized under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing the profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, are distributed on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period from 1 January to 31 March 2020:

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, a function was held on 23 January 2020 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla; Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi; Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines, Shri Prahlad Joshi; Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

Lala Lajpat Rai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai, a function was held on 28 January 2020 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla; former Deputy Prime Minister, Shri L. K. Advani and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of Lala Lajpat Rai.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, a function was held on 4 February 2020 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla; Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman, Shri Harivansh; former Deputy Prime Minister, Shri L. K. Advani; Members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of former Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

Smt. Sarojini Naidu: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Smt. Sarojini Naidu, a function was held on 13 February 2020 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla; Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad; former Deputy Prime Minister, Shri L. K. Advani and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the portrait of Smt. Sarojini Naidu.

Shri Morarji Desai: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Morarji Desai, a function was held on 29 February 2020 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Former Deputy

Prime Minister, Shri L.K. Advani and other dignitaries paid floral tributes at the Portrait of Shri Morarji Desai.

Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, a function was held on 23 March 2020 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla; Union Minister for Defence Shri Raj Nath Singh; Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Culture and Tourism Shri Prahlad Singh Patel; Chairman, Departmentally Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development (Rajya Sabha) Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya and Secretary-General of Lok Sabha Smt. Snehlata Srivastava and other dignitaries paid floral tributes to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

Foreign Parliamentary Delegation Visiting India

Canada: A Parliamentary Delegation from Canada led by H.E. Mr. George J. Furey, Speaker of the Senate of Parliament of Canada visited India from 8 to 14 February, 2020.

On 13 February, 2020, the Delegation called on Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, The Delegation called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on the same evening. A Banquet (Dinner) was hosted by Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha in honour of the Delegation. The Delegation also met Shri Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs and Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal, Minister of Human Resource Development on the same day.

On 14 February, 2020, the Delegation met Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha.

Besides Delhi, the Delegation visited Agra.

Call-on Meeting with the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha

France: Mrs. Celine Calvez, President of the France-India Parliamentary Friendship Group called on Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 28 January, 2020 in Parliament House.

PARLIAMENTARY RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR DEMOCRACIES (PRIDE)

During the period from 1 January to 31 March 2020, the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies has organized the following Courses/Programmes for Members/Delegates/ Probationers/Journalists/Students:

I. Orientation Programme for newly elected Members of Haryana Legislative Assembly:

Forty-five Members of Haryana Legislative Assembly attended the Orientation Programme for the newly elected Members of the Legislative Assembly of Haryana on 21 and 22 January 2020.

II. **35th International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting**:

The 35th International Training Programme in Legislative Drafting for Foreign Parliamentary Officers/Officials was organized from 15 January to 14 February 2020. The Programme was attended by forty-one participants. Out of forty-one participants, thirty-eight Participants were from twenty-six different countries and three Participants were from Lok Sabha Secretariat/Rajya Sabha Secretariat. The Programme is funded under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Plan by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

III. Appreciation Courses

Four Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures were organized for:

(i) Twenty-two Officer-Trainees of Indian Audit Service & Accounts Services (IAAS) from 5 to 7 February 2020;
(ii) Fifty-nine officers of Indian Civil Accounts Service, Indian Defence Accounts Service, Indian Railway Accounts Service and Indian Post & Telecom Accounts and Finance Service from 10 to 12 February 2020;
(iii) Ten officers of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) from 17 to 18 February 2020; and
(iv) Twenty-two Officer-Trainees of the Indian Information Service (IIS) from 24 to 26 February 2020.

IV. Professional Development Programmes for/by Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat

(i) Twenty-four newly recruited Secretariat Assistants attended the Induction Training Programme from 20 to 24 January 2020.

V. Special Training Programme for Officials of the People's Majlis of Maldives:

Ten officials of the People's Majlis of Maldives attended the Special Training Programme from 13 to 17 January 2020. The Programme was funded under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Plan by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

VI. (a) Study Visits (International):

(i) Forty-two participants of the 59th Know India Programme (KIP), MEA, New Delhi, attended Study Visit at PRIDE on 24 January 2020; and
(ii) Thirty-two Diplomats from different Countries attended the RIS-ITEC capacity building programme on "International Economy issues & development policy (IEIDP)" New Delhi, at PRIDE on 19 February 2020.

In all, 2 Study Visits (International) were organised in which there were 74 participants.

(b) Study Visits (National):

(i) Seventy awardees of National Bravery Award Programme, attended Study Visit at PRIDE on 24 January 2020;

(ii) Thirty-five students and staff members of Mamta Modern Senior Secondary School, Vikas Puri, New Delhi, attended Study Visit at PRIDE on 4 February 2020;

(iii) Twenty-eight students of the Communication Studies, Punjab University, Chandigarh, attended Study Visit on at PRIDE 4 February 2020;

(iv) A group of One hundred twenty-four Chartered Accountants attended Study Visit at PRIDE on 10 February 2020;

(v) Thirty officers of North Eastern States undergoing training at ISTM, New Delhi, attended Study Visit at PRIDE on 14 February 2020;

(vi) Thirty-seven Scientists, Technologists and Technical Personnel undergoing training at IIPA, New Delhi, attended Study Visit at PRIDE on 18 February 2020;

(vii) A group of fourteen persons in relation to Hon'ble Chief Justice, Delhi High Court, New Delhi, attended Study Visit at PRIDE on 20 February 2020;

(viii) Forty-five officers undergoing training at Delhi Judicial Academy, New Delhi, attended Study Visit at PRIDE on 20 February 2020; and

(ix) One hundred three probationers of Maharashtra Civil Services & IIPA/ VANAMATI officials attended Study Visit at PRIDE on 3 March 2020.

In all, 9 Study Visits (National) were organised which had 486 participants.

MEMBERS' REFERENCE SERVICE

Members' Reference Service caters to the information needs of Members of Parliament, primarily in connection with their day-to-day parliamentary work. The Service brings out Reference Notes and Legislative Notes on important issues and Bills pending before the House. During the period from 1 January to 31 March 2020, a total of 777 offline and 211 online references were received and disposed of. Eight Legislative Notes, Eight Reference Notes and Four Information Folders were also prepared on important topics during this period. Various jobs and liaison works related with briefing session was done. The Chapter on Legislative and Financial Business transacted was also updated.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

Instances when the Chair allowed Members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 4 February, 2020 during discussion on Motion of Thanks on President's Address, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 14 members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House.

Instances when the Chair allowed Members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 5 February, 2020 during discussion on Motion of Thanks on President's Address, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 24 members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House.

Instances when the Chair allowed Members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 6 February, 2020 during discussion on Motion of Thanks on President's Address, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 16 members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House.

Instances when the Chair allowed Members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 10 February, 2020 during discussion on Union Budget for 2020-2021, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 43 members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House.

Instances when the Chair allowed Members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 11 February, 2020 during discussion on Union Budget for 2020-2021, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 27 members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House.

Instances when the Chair allowed Members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 12 March, 2020 during discussion on Union Budget for 2020-2021, concerning Demand for Grant under control of the Ministry of Railways - 2020-2021, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 47 members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House.

Instances when the Chair allowed Members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 13 March, 2020 during discussion on Union Budget for 2020-2021, concerning Demand for Grant under control of the Ministry of Railways, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 29 members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 13 March, 2020 during discussion on Union Budget for 2020-2021concerning Demand for Grant under control of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 19 members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House.

Instances when the Chair allowed Members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 16 March, 2020 during discussion on Union Budget for 2020-2021concerning

Demand for Grant under control of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 13 members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House.

On 16 March, 2020 during discussion on Union Budget for 2020-2021concerning Demand for Grant under control of the Ministry of Tourism, the Chair permitted members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House. Accordingly, 58 members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House.

Observation from the Chair regarding Formation of a Committee to inquire into the untoward incidents that occurred in the House between 2 March, 2020 and 5 March, 2020: On 6 March, 2020, at 12:22 Hours, Hon'ble Chairperson, made the following observation:

> Hon'ble Speaker shall constitute a committee. The committee shall investigate all the incidents that occurred in the House from 2 March, 2020 to 5 March, 2020 and would submit a report. Hon'ble Speaker himself shall be heading the committee. This committee shall comprise the representatives from almost all the parties.

Observation from the Chair regarding Commencement of sitting of House at 14:00 Hours and cancellation of Question Hour: On 20 March, 2020, at 12:01 Hours, Shri Om Birla, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, made the following observation:

> Hon'ble Members, I have to inform the House that I have had a discussion with the leaders of all the parties on 19 March, 2020 wherein several Hon'ble Members requested me personally that due to a change in flight routes, they would not be able to reach Parliament at 11 a.m. on Monday. On the basis of requests made by the Hon'ble Members, the House will meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, 23 March 2020 and Question Hour scheduled for that day also stands adjourned.

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS
(1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2020)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and internet sources, as such, the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

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INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Parliament Session: The Third Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha and the Two Hundred and Fifty First Session of the Rajya Sabha (the Budget Session of Parliament) commenced on 31 January 2020 with the Address by the President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind to Members of both the Houses assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha were adjourned for recess on 11 February, 2020 till 1 March, 2020 to enable the Departmentally-related Parliamentary Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of various Ministries/Departments assigned to them and submit their reports to the House. Both the Houses were adjourned *sine die* on 23 March, 2020. The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind prorogued both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 29 March, 2020.

Elections to Rajya Sabha: On 16 March, 2020, Shri Ranjan Gogoi was nominated as Rajya Sabha Member. His term as a Member of Rajya Sabha commenced *w.e.f.* 17 March, 2020. He took oath on 19 March, 2020.

On 18 March, 2020, Shri Dushyant Gautam of the Bharatiya Janata Party, declared elected, from Haryana. His term as a Member of Rajya Sabha commenced *w.e.f.* 19 March, 2020. He took oath on 23 March, 2020.

Resignation of Rajya Sabha Members: On 20 January, 2020, Chaudhary Birender Singh, Member of the Bharatiya Janata Party from Haryana, resigned.

On 25 March, 2020, Dr. K. Keshava Rao, Member of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi and Shri Prem Chand Gupta, Member of Rashtriya Janata Dal from Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand, respectively, resigned.

Death of Lok Sabha Member: On 27 March 2020, Shri Beni Prasad Verma, Member of Samajwadi Party from Uttar Pradesh, passed away.

AROUND THE STATES

ASSAM

Oath of New Ministers: On 18 January, 2020, the Governor, Shri Jagdish Mukhi, administered oath of office and secrecy to two newly-inducted Ministers, Sarvashri Sanjay Kishan and Jogen Mohan as Ministers of State.

DELHI

Assembly Election Results: The elections to 70-seat Delhi Legislative Assembly were held on 8 February, 2020. The results were announced on 11 February, 2020. The party position following the election is as follows: Aam Aadmi Party: 62; and Bharatiya Janata Party: 8.

New Chief Minister: On 16 February, 2020, Shri Arvind Kejriwal was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Delhi along with six Cabinet Ministers.

Election of Speaker: On 24 February, 2020, Shri Ram Niwas Goel was re-elected as the Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly.

JHARKHAND

New Speaker: On 7 January, 2020, Shri Rabindra Nath Mahato was elected as the Speaker of the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly.

KARNATAKA

Oath of New Ministers: On 6 February, 2020, the Governor, Shri Vajubhai Vala, administered oath of office and secrecy to ten newly-inducted Ministers, Sarvashri Shrimant Patil, Ramesh Jarakiholi, Shivaram Hebbar, B.C. Patil, Anand Singh, K. Sudhakar, Byrathi Basavaraj, S.T. Somashekhar, K. Gopalaiah and Narayana Gowda.

MADHYA PRADESH

Resignation of Member/s of Legislative Assembly: On 10 March, 2020, twenty-three members of the Indian National Congress resigned from the Legislative Assembly.

INC MLA joined BJP: On 11 March, 2020, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia member of the Indian National Congress joined Bharatiya Janata Party.

Resignation of Chief Minister: On 20 March, 2020, the Chief Minister, Shri Kamal Nath resigned before floor test.

Twenty-two INC MLAs joined BJP: On 21 March, 2020, twenty-two members of the Indian National Congress joined Bharatiya Janata Party.

New Chief Minister: On 23 March, 2020, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.

Political Development: On 24 March, 2020, the Bharatiya Janata Party led Government won the confidence vote in the State Legislative Assembly.

EVENTS ABROAD

CROATIA

New President: On 18 February, 2020, Mr. Zoran Milanovic was sworn in as the President of Croatia.

GUINEA-BISSAU

New President: On 27 February, 2020, Mr. Umaro Cissoko Embalo was sworn in as the President of Guinea-Bissau.

IRELAND

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 20 February, 2020, the Prime Minister of Ireland, Mr. Leo Varadkar resigned.

KOSOVO

Oath of Prime Minister: On 3 February, 2020, Mr. Albin Kurti was sworn in as Prime Minister.

MALAYSIA

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 24 February, 2020, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Mr. Mahathir Mohamad resigned.

Oath of Prime Minister: On 1 March, 2020, Mr. Muhyiddin Yassin was sworn in as Prime Minister.

MALTA

New Prime Minister: On 13 January, 2020, Mr. Robert Abela was sworn in as the new Prime Minister.

MARSHALL ISLANDS

Oath of President: On 20 January, 2020, the President, Mr. David Kabua was sworn in as President.

MOZAMBIQUE

Oath of President: On 15 January, 2020, the President, Mr. Filipe Nyusi was sworn in as President.

NAMIBIA

Oath of President: On 21 March, 2020, the President, Mr. Hage Geingob was sworn in as President for the Second term.

OMAN

Death of Royal Ruler: On 10 January, 2020, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman, passed away.

New Royal Ruler: On 11 January, 2020, Mr. Haitham bin Tariq was sworn in as the New Royal Ruler of Oman.

QATAR

New Prime Minister: On 28 January, 2020, Mr. Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al-Thani was appointed as the Prime Minister.

RUSSIA

New Prime Minister: On 16 January, 2020, Mr. Mikhail Mishustin was appointed as the new Prime Minister.

SLOVAKIA

Oath of Prime Minister: On 21 March, 2020, Mr. Igor Matovic was sworn in as Prime Minister.

SLOVENIA

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 27 January, 2020, the Prime Minister of Slovenia, Mr. Marjan Sarec resigned.

SPAIN

Oath of Prime Minister: On 8 January, 2020, Mr. Pedro Sánchez was sworn in as Prime Minister.

TUNISIA

New Prime Minister: On 27 February, 2020, Mr. Elyes Fakhfakh was sworn in as the new Prime Minister.

URUGUAY

Oath of President: On 1 March, 2020, Mr. Luis Lacalle Pou was sworn in as President of Uruguay.

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Act, 2019: Scheduled Tribes have been defined in clause (25) of Article 366 of the Constitution as "such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this Constitution".

Article 342 of the Constitution provides as under: —

"342. Scheduled Tribes — (1) The President may with respect to any State or Union territory, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or parts of or group within tribes or tribal communities which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be Scheduled Tribes in relation to that State or Union territory, as the case may be.

(2) Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any tribe or tribal community or part of or group within any tribe or tribal community, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification".

In accordance with the provision of article 342 of the Constitution, the first list of Scheduled Tribes in respect of State of Karnataka (the then State of Mysore) was notified, *vide* the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950. List of Scheduled Tribes of State of Karnataka has been modified through the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act, 1956, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 1976, the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Act, 1991, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 2002 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Act, 2012.

At present, there are one hundred and six numbers of communities and synonyms appearing in the list of Scheduled Tribes of the State of Karnataka.

On the basis of recommendation of State of Karnataka, it has been decided for inclusion of communities, namely: (*i*) ''Parivara" and "Talawara" at entry 38 as synonyms of "Nayaka" and (*ii*) "Siddi" community of Dharwad and Belagavi districts alongwith existing 'Siddi' Community of Uttar Kannada district at entry 50 in the list of Scheduled Tribes of the State of Karnataka. Therefore, it is proposed to amend PART-XI of the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 relating to the State of Karnataka to grant Scheduled Tribes status to the said communities.

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019 which sought to achieve the above objectives was passed by the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha on 12 December 2019 and 11 February 2020, respectively. Amendments made by Lok Sabha on 11 February 2020 agreed to by Rajya Sabha on 11 March 2020. The President of India assented to it on 19 March 2020.

The texts of the above Act is reproduced below.

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THE CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2020

An Act further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 to modify the list of the Scheduled Tribes in the State of Karnataka.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-first Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. Short title. This Act may be called the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Act, 2020.

2. Amendment of Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950. In the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, in the Schedule, in Part VI.—

(a) in entry 38, for the words "Naikda, Nayaka", the words and brackets "Naikda, Nayaka (including Parivara and Talawara)" shall be substituted;

(b) in entry 50, for the brackets and words "(in Uttar Kannada district)", the brackets and words "(in Belagavi, Dharwad and Uttar Kannada districts)" shall be substituted.

SESSIONAL REVIEW

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

THIRD SESSION

The Third Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha commenced on 31 January 2020 and concluded on 23 March 2020 nearly two weeks ahead of the scheduled time after a consensus across party lines keeping in view the situation arising out of the spread of COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier, the House was scheduled to sit till 3 April 2020.

The Third Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha, which was also the Budget Session, was held in two parts. The First Part of the Session commenced on 31 January and adjourned on 11 February to enable the Departmentally Related Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of various Ministries/Departments. The Second Part of the Budget Session began on 2 March and concluded on 23 March 2020. During the Session, the House had a total of 23 sittings spread over 109 hours and 23 minutes, out of which 9 sittings were held in the First Part of the Session and 14 sittings in the Second Part. During the Session, the House sat late for 21 hours and 48 minutes to discuss various important issues and recorded 90 per cent productivity. The House was prorogued by the President of India on 29 March, 2020.

A brief account of the important discussions and other business transacted during the Third Session is given below.

A. DISCUSSIONS/STATEMENTS

Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to the Members: On 31 January 2020, the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind addressed the Members of both the Houses in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The Motion of Thanks on the Address by the President was moved by Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma on 3 February and was seconded by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav. The discussion on the motion of thanks took place on 3, 4, 5 and 6 February 2020. As many as 118 members participated in the discussion that lasted over 15 hours and 21 minutes. On 6 February, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, replied to the debate. The Motion of Thanks to the President was adopted the same day, after all the amendments moved were negatived.

Moving the Motion, Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma (BJP) said that the Members of the Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on 31 January 2020. Over the last five years, the Government has solved many big problems by embarking on concrete solution at varying points in time. Article 370 of the Constitution has been repealed. Triple Talaq dispensation has become a thing of the past. Shri Verma further said that the Government has covered more than 40 crore wage earners as well as small traders, farmers and others working in the unorganized sector under pension scheme. There has been no incidence of scam involving even a single rupee in the five years' tenure. Extension of medical treatment, insurance cover, free electric connection to the poor, and payment of loans under MUDRA Yojana speak volumes of good governance. The Government took rapid strides on economic front to actualize the dream of entering the economic trajectory of five trillion dollar. The innovative steps like Startup India, 4th Industrial Revolution, Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, Internet are also attributed to the Union Government. Naxalite activities have also considerably come down over the last five years. The Government has taken a definitive step with the inclusion of National Climate Action Plan in the Union Budget. As many as 1731 unauthorised colonies have been regularized in Delhi. Capital Gains chargeable from those selling their properties have also been waived off. Sanction has been accorded for the construction of Metro rail phase IV. The Government is committed to providing safe drinking water to every citizen of the country by the year 2024. An international convention center with a cost of Rs. 26,000 crore is proposed to be constructed in Delhi by the Union Government. The Government also imparted skill training to three lakh youths in the skill development centers. A hundred bed hospital with a cost of Rs.100 crore is going to be set up in Najafgarh, Delhi. Shri Verma supported the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in its entirety.

Seconding the Motion moved by Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma on the President's Address to the House of Parliament, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav (BJP) said that when the Government was formed in the year 2014, in about more than 10 crore houses there were no toilets. Six lakh villages were not free from open defecation. About two crore pucca houses were not there. About eight crore women did not have gas connections. About 38 crore poor people did not have bank accounts. In more than two and a half crore homes, there were no electricity connections. About 18,000 villages did not have electricity. About 50 crore people did not have the facility of free treatment upto five lakh rupees. More than five crore fifty four lakh entrepreneurs were given loans to the tune of 10 lakh crores of rupees under the MUDRA

Scheme. About 24 crore people did not have insurance cover and about 1,34,000 village panchayats did not have optical fibre and broadband facility. About eight crore seventy eight lakh farmers did not have the benefit under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. Shri Yadav said that the Hon'ble Prime Minister conceived and executed several new schemes to provide the benefits to the poor. With the effective implementation of the schemes, the last man standing in the queue has been benefited. The government has got unflinching commitment towards the villages, the poor and the farmer. The CAA has been implemented under the relevant legal provisions and the Parliament itself has passed it. Hon'ble Prime Minister has introduced schemes for empowerment of all sections of the society and all women. The Government enacted a law to ban the practice of triple Talaq. Hon'ble Prime Minister thinks of 130 crore Indians and does not discriminate against any. He wants to make our economy a five trillion economy by the year 2024. The schemes which were pending have been brought on the track. Hon'ble Prime Minister is working with a firm commitment.

Participating in the discussion[*], Shri P. K. Kunhalikutty (IUML) said that the Address of the President has been quite disappointing. It does not address any of problems that the country

[*] Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Gaurav Gogoi, P.V. Midhun Reddy, Vinayak Bhaurao Raut, Pinaki Misra, Ritesh Pandey, Jasbir Singh Gill, Sunil Dattatray Tatkare, Ajay Misra Teni, S. Jagathrakshakan, Malook Nagar, Dilip Ghosh, Nama Nageswara Rao, Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', Akhilesh Yadav, Hasnain Masoodi, Sunil Kumar Pintu, Abdul Khaleque, Nihal Chand Chouhan, Asaduddin Owaisi, N. K. Premachandran, Rakesh Singh, Naranbhai Kachhadiya, Nayab Singh Saini, Ganesh Singh, Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, Talari Rangaiah, S.R. Parthiban, Dilip Saikia, K. Navas Kani, M. Selvaraj, Balubhai *alias* Suresh Narayan Dhanorkar, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Jashvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Bidyut Baran Mahato, Vishnu Dayal Ram, Rahul Kaswan, P. P. Chaudhary, H. Vasanthakumar, D.K. Suresh, Rajesh Naranbhai Chudasama, Jayadev Galla, Hanuman Beniwal, Sridhar Kotagiri, Chirag Kumar Paswan, Khagen Murmu, Badruddin Ajmal, Mohanbhai Sanjhibhai Delkar, P. Raveendranath Kumar, Thomas Chazhikadan, Shrirang Appa Barne, Tejasvi Surya, K. Sudhakaran, S. Venkatesan, K. Subbarayan, Jugal Kishore Sharma, Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, Mohammad Akbar Lone, Shafiqur Rahman Barq, Dnv. Senthilkumar S., Raju Bista, Ajay Bhatt, Haji Fazlur Rehman, Ram Shiromani Verma, Parbatbhai Savabhai Patel, Ramcharan Bohra, Kapil Moreshwar Patil, Sunil Kumar Singh, Anubhav Mohanty, Tirath Singh Rawat, Dipsinh Shankarsinh Rathod, Vinod Lakhamshi Chavda, Sudarshan Bhagat, Dushyant Singh, Parbhubhai Nagarbhai Vasava, Devaji Patel, C. P. Joshi, Mitesh Patel (Bakabhai), Ve. Vaithilingam, Vinod Kumar Sonkar, Adv. A. M. Ariff, Adv. Adoor Prakash, Adv. Dean Kuriakose, Kunwar Danish Ali, Prof. Sougata Ray, Prof. Achyutananda Samanta, Prof. Rita Bahuguna Joshi, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Dr. Satya Pal Singh, Dr. Thol Thirumaavalavan, Dr. G. Ranjith Reddy, Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre, Dr. Virendra Kumar, Dr. D. Ravikumar, Dr. Rajdeep Roy, Dr. R.K. Ranjan, Dr. Bharti Pravin Pawar, Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, Dr. T. Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian, Dr. Bhartiben D. Shyal, Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit, Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy, Sushri Mahua Moitra, Sushri Pratima Bhoumik, Shrimati Poonamben Maadam, Shrimati Aparupa Poddar, Shrimati Rama Devi, Shrimati Gitaben V. Rathva, Shrimati Ranjanben Bhatt, Shrimati

faces. During the UPA Government, the GDP was growing whereas it has come down during the last five years. The value of rupee has gone down. Unemployment is at its maximum. Poverty is also growing. Shri Kunhalikutty said that the country is going down in the Democratic Index. There are issues like CAA, NRC and NPR. A number of Chief Ministers have said that they would not implement it and the Government is not bothered about the federal system. The situation which prevails in this country is very serious.

Joining the discussion, Shri T.R. Baalu (DMK) said that the President stated that by 2022, the income of farmers will be doubled. However, the farmers are not getting crop loan and crop insurance even today. The farmers are not having proper irrigation infrastructure. The Government is not providing proper market for the farmers' produce. Similarly, the Government has not made any attempt to implement Swaminathan's Report. Oppressed people are not getting social justice even today. They are exploited and there is no relief to them. Similarly, the Government has issued a Tender Notice inviting Expression of Interest or Petroleum Blocks in the Cauvery Delta districts of Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli, Pudukkaottai, Nagappattinam, Tiruvarur and Cuddalore. Shri Baalu raised that whether the petroleum blocks could be bided for oil exploration in the delta area. Around 122 lakh people are living in these six districts. The Government has offered 274 blocks to the private agencies. Shri Baalu further asked whether any cost-benefit ratio has been identified. He asked the Government that what is the compulsion for bringing CAA. In the NPR, whatever data this Government collected is wide open to the world. Similarly, according to the Universal Declaration Article 215, it is for the government to give asylum to each and every body world over whoever comes, whichever caste, creed or religion he belongs. India is one of the signatories of the Universal Declaration.

Replying to the discussion, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi expressing his gratitude to the President on the motion of thanks for his Address said that the Hon'ble President has presented a vision of new India in his Address. The Address of the Hon'ble President given at the outset of the third decade of the 21st century is the one which provides the country with a direction, inspiration and creates a belief in crores of people of the country. All the experienced Hon'ble Members of this House have presented their points quite well during the discussion. Everyone has made an effort with his/her own way to enrich the discussion. It is not that the

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Sharda Anil Patel, Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule, Shrimati Anupriya Patel, Shrimati Raksha Nikhil Khadse, Shrimati Sangeeta Azad, Shrimati Darshana Vikram Jardosh and Shrimati Riti Pathak

people have only opted to change a Government, they have also expectation to change the direction. The Government has got this opportunity to serve here due to the wish and expectation of the country to work with a new vision. The Prime Minister said that had the Government moved in the same way, as they did and as was their want, Article 370 would not have been removed even after 70 years from this country. The Muslim sisters would have faced the fear of triple talaq even today, had we treaded their path. A law to ordain death sentence for rape with minors would not have become a reality. The Ram Janam Bhoomi issue would have continued to remain a dispute and never ever the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor could have become a reality. The India-Bangladesh border dispute would have never been solved. The country has been constantly endeavoring to combat all the challenges. If we do not challenge the challenges, had we not made forward strides taking all along us, the country would probably have continued to face several problems for a long time. Had we followed the path of the Congress Party, the country would have continued to wait for the Enemy Property Law, next generation fighter aircraft and Benami Property Law would not have been implemented even after 28 years. Also, the Chief of Defence Staff would not have been appointed even after 20 years. We all very well know that the country is not ready to wait for a long period after 70 years of Independence. The Prime Minister said that it is the endeavor of the Government to accelerate the speed and raise the scale. There should be determination and decisiveness, sensitivity as well as solution.

The Prime Minister further said that the people of the country observed during the 5 years the rapid pace of work that the Government undertook and the outcome was that they gave us an opportunity to serve them again with a bit more strength and with the same pace. Had it not been this rapid pace, bank accounts for 37 crore people would not have been opened in such a short time and toilet construction work in the houses of 11 crore people would not have been completed. It was through this pace of work that gas stoves could be provided to 13 crore, 2 crore new houses for the poor and regularization work of more than 1700 illegal colonies of Delhi, which was pending for a long time have been completed. Many important work has been done recently with new methods and new vision and the Hon'ble President has mentioned them in his Address as well. The Government has raised the MSP 1.5 times. Irrigation schemes had been lying pending for 20 years or more even after funds were spent to the tune of 80-90 per cent. The Government undertook about 99 such schemes. The Government took them to their logical end by spending more than a lakh rupees and now the farmers have started to get benefit from them. Through the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, a confidence has developed among the farmers. Premium to the tune of about Rs. 13,000 crore was received from the farmers.

However, the farmers have received through the insurance scheme about Rs. 56,000 crore for the loss suffered due to natural calamities. It is Government's priority to ensure that the income of the farmers is raised by bringing down the input cost. The Government introduced E-NAM scheme so that the farmers could sell their produce through it in the market and around 1.75 crore farmers have so far got connected through this system. Farmers have done transactions of around Rs. 1 lakh crore of their produce through this E-NAM scheme using this technology. Be it extending Kisan Credit Cards along with its allied activities, be it animal husbandry, pisciculture, poultry farming or making an effort to move towards solar energy, solar pump, the Government has added several things which have resulted in a drastic change in their economic condition. The budget of the Ministry of Agriculture in the year 2014 was of Rs. 27,000 crore has been increased 5 times to the tune of Rs. 1.5 lakh crore. Under the P.M. Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, direct fund transfer is carried out into the accounts of farmers. So far, Rs. 45,000 crore have been transferred into the accounts of the farmers.

The Prime Minister said that there is a check on fiscal deficit and inflation in economy and a micro-economic stability has been maintained. The Government has taken all the steps required for long term strengthening - be it the important decision about GST, bringing down corporate tax, introducing IBC, liberalising FDI regime, recapitalisation of banks and benefits have thereof also started to accrue. A number of important decisions have been taken to ensure that the confidence of investors is raised and the economy gets strengthened. During January, 2019 to 2020, GST revenue collection has been more than Rs.1 lakh crore six times. From April to September, 2018, FDI was of Rs. 22 billion dollar, this has crossed 26 billion dollar today during the same period. This is a proof that the confidence of the foreign investors has risen in respect of India. The Government's vision is for greater investment, better infrastructure, increased value addition and more and more job creation. Schemes like MUDRA Yojana, Start-Up India, Stand-Up India have given much strength to the self employment schemes in the country. Crores of people in this country have started to earn their livelihood through self-employment for the first time after availing MUDRA Yojana. More than 28 thousand start-ups have been recognised. India has got the third position in the world in the data of enterprenuers of the World Bank. Infrastructure plays a pivotal role in strengthening the economy. The emphasis on creating and strengthening the infrastructure also drives the economy, creates job opportunities and new industries also come up. Therefore, the Government has given an impetus in the creation of infrastructure. The Government is fully committed to the bright future of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and also to fulfill their aspirations. The Prime Minister assured

130 crore citizens of the country with a profound sense of responsibility that the Citizenship Amendment Act is not going to affect any of the Citizens of India in any manner, be they Hindu, Muslim, Sikh or Christian. It is not going to harm the minorities of India. The Prime Minister appealed to all parties to work in tandem to push the nation to the higher economic trajectory characterized with an economy of 5 trillion dollars and to take resolve to that end.

All the amendments moved were negatived.

The Motion was adopted.

The Union Budget - 2020-2021: On 1 February 2020, the Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2020-2021. General Discussion on the Union Budget for 2020-2021 took place on 6, 10 and 11 February 2020.

Initiating the discussion on the Union Budget 2020-2021 on 6 February 2020, Shri Manish Tewari (INC) said that we need to introspect if we have been able to offer the liberty to the people as contained in the Preamble to the Constitution of India. Area of India is 2.4 per cent of the total area of the world and population is 17.7 per cent of the world population. However, only 1 per cent people own the 73 per cent wealth of the country. GDP of India has increased at the rate of 4.45 per cent during the 40 years from 1950 to 1990 and from 1990 to 2020 it has increased at 6.5 per cent. In the current year it has increased at 5 per cent only. Shri Tewari said that the House must have a detailed discussion on a suitable economic model for the future of the country. This budget fails to offer the right solution of the problems facing the country. Growth rate in all the sectors has gone down whereas unemployment is increasing. A number of data prove that Indian economy is passing through a sensitive phase. 66 per cent people of India live in villages. Indian economy cannot take a boost unless consumption increases in the rural areas. Shri Tewari said that last year, the Government had provided concessions worth rupees 1,45,000 crore to the capitalists. The problem lies in demand side whereas the Government is providing solutions to the supply side. Size of Indian economy is of Rupees 148 lakh crore. Only 4 per cent taxpayers pay 60 per cent of the taxes in India. The Government is trying to divest the public sector undertakings to make up its fiscal deficit. The Government should take some initiative to maintain the reliability of its economic numbers. Shri Tewari said that if we want economic growth in the country, social harmony is a must.

Joining the discussion, Shri Jayant Sinha (BJP) said that this budget shows that this is not a billionaires' rule but the people's rule. If we want to move forward, we need to look forward. If we look at the high frequency indicators, we observe that the economy has taken a big turn. Economy is bound to grow at a real growth rate of 6-6.5 per cent. GST collections are also increasing. The Government has accorded priority to the macro-economic stability. Fiscal deficit is perfectly under control. Keeping the fiscal deficit pending will be beneficial for the economy in future and will also help create jobs. To boost consumption, the Government has given Rs. 75,000 crore directly to the beneficiaries under the Kisan Samman Scheme and allocation to MNREGA has also been increased. Tax cuts will accrue good benefits to the urban middle class taxpayers. During the last five years, the Government has managed a better control over inflation and interest rates. As far as investment is concerned, the Government has identified 6500 projects and provided 105 lakh crore rupees for this purpose. Allocation for industrial corridor has also been increased by 26 per cent. Apart from that, 30,000 crore rupees have been provided for providing potable water and sanitation purposes, 9000 crore rupees have been provided for river development, , 4000 crore rupees have been provided particularly for the residents of Delhi under the National Clean Air Mission. Old age pension to the tune of 9 lakh crore rupees are being transferred directly to the accounts of beneficiaries under the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme. In this budget, 70 out of 100 exemptions and deductions have been done away with for the purpose of simplification of tax regime so that people may be able to save 5 to 10 per cent tax and file their income tax returns easily. The Government has promoted the digital payment system. The Government has been successful in controlling the NPA of banks due to which banks have become more robust and globally competitive. FDI has increased upto 40 or 50 billion dollar per year. As far as NBFCs are concerned, stressed assets fund of Rs. 10,000 crore have been provided for it. Shri Sinha said that he firmly believed that the economy will definitely achieve the target of 5 trillion dollar and from now on we would look forward to achieve 10 trillion dollar economy status. And to achieve this we must go for the green frontier in terms of both competitiveness and sustainability.

Participating in the discussion[†], Shrimati Kanimozhi (DMK) said that India had very high hopes for this Budget. But she fail to see how any of the proposed allocations will boost the

[†] **Others who participated in the discussion were:** Sarvshri Raghu Rama Krishna Raju, Arvind Sawant, Ramprit Mandal, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Girish Chandra, Kundariya Mohanbhai Kaushalendra Kumar, Dayanidhi Maran, Ajay Misra Teni, Hasnain Masoodi, Ramcharan Bohra, Bidyut Baran Mahato, Sudarshan Bhagat, Parthiban S.R., Dinesh Chandra Yadav, Gajanan Kirtikar, Rajesh Chudasama, P.P.

income and enhance the purchasing power of the people. The Government has been talking about the five trillion-dollar economy. Today, in real terms the growth is only 5 per cent of GDP. The agriculture sector has just grown by two per cent in the first quarter of this year as compared to 5.1 per cent growth in the same quarter in the previous year. The RBI Annual Report shows that the contribution of agriculture in the last five years has halved. The NITI Aayog Report says that 14 per cent growth is needed to double the farmers' income. He expressed her apprehension that how in the existing scenario one can be positive on this count. As per NCRB Report, thousands of people engaged in the farm sector have committed suicide in the recent past not because of the factors ascribed to Nature but because of the erroneous format of the so called Centre's flagship crop insurance scheme. To illustrate the ground reality, the situation is so preposterous that farmers in Tamil Nadu received as little as Rs.4, Rs.5 and Rs.10 as crop insurance. The least the Government could have done is to provide immediate relief to the farmers by waiving off the farmers' loans, which has been their demand for a very long time. This apart, there has been steep fall in the money allocated for MGNREGA. The national average wage of MGNREGA worker is quite less *vis a vis* minimum wages recommended by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. The Fifteenth Finance Commission has the 2011 Census as

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Chaudhary, Brijbhushan Sharan Singh, Vasava Parbhubhai Nagarbhai, Raju Bista, Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu, Nama Nageswar Rao, Kuldeep Rai Sharma, E.T. Mohammed Basheer, Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan, Rakesh Singh, Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, P.R. Natarajan, Asaduddin Owaisi, Anubhav Mohanty, Mitesh Rameshbhai Patel, Arjun Singh, M. Selvaraj, Jasbir Singh Gill, Prince Raj, Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai Bhabhor, Shiromani Ram Verma, Margani Ram Bharat, S. Gnanthiraviam, Ravikumar D., Thol Thirumaavalavan, Sunil Kumar Pintu, N.K. Premachandran, Hanuman Beniwal, Rahul Kaswan, Jagdambika Pal, Benny Behanan, Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava, Thomas Chazhikadan, P. Raveendranath Kumar, Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka, Shyam Singh Yadav, K. Navaskani, DNV Senthilkumar S., Ramesh Bidhuri, Ajay Bhatt, Achyutananda Samanta, Talari Rangaiah, Malook Nagar, Sushil Kumar Singh, Pashupati Nath Singh, Nihal Chand, Rajendra D. Gavit, M.K. Raghavan, Anto Antony, Shrirang Appa Barne, Balashowry Vallabhaneni, Gautham Sigamani Pon, Naranbhai Kachhadiya, Ashok Kumar Rawat, Janardan Singh Sigriwal, Kapil Moreshwar Patil, Ajay Tamta, Sunil Kumar Singh, D.S. Rathod, Jugal Kishore, Vinod Kumar Sonkar, Sudhakar Tukaram Shrangare, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Dr. Alok Kumar Suman, Dr. Sujay Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil, Dr. Bharatiben D. Shiyal, Adv. A.M. Ariff, Dr. Virendra Kumar Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Adv. Adoor Prakash, Dr. K. Jayakumar, Dr. Sanghmitra Maurya, Adv. Dean Kuriakose, Dr. T. Sumathy(a) Thamizhachi, Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy, Dr. Gaddam Ranjith Reddy, Dr. Kirit P. Solanki, Dr. Beesetti Venkata Satyavathi, Dr. Subhas Sarkar, Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, Ms. Locket Chatterjee, Ms. S. Jothimani, Ms. Diya Kumari, Smt. Shardaben Anilbhai Patel, Smt. Supriya, Smt. Rama Devi, Smt. Gitaben Vajesinhbhai, Smt. Preneet Kaur, Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, Smt. Sunita Duggal Smt. Ranjanben Dhananjay Bhatt, Smt. Aparupa Poddar, Smt. Vanga Geetha Viswanath, Smt. Sangeeta Kumar Singh Deo, Smt. Hema Malini, Smt. Rita Bahuguna, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, Smt. Anupriya Patel, Smt. Queen Ojha, Smt. Riti Pathak, Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh, Smt. Shobha Karandlaje and Smt. Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam

the sole criteria for the population but has reduced the weightage of the population to 15 per cent from earlier 27.5 per cent. It is extremely unjust to punish States like Tamil Nadu and the Southern States that have achieved a neutral net reproductive rate target. Coming to disinvestment, Shrimati Kanimozhi **said** that the LIC was nationalized only because there were unfair trade practices. There seems to be no cogent reason to disinvest the LIC other than the Government's desperate attempt to raise money through disinvestment as they are failing to realize their tax revenue targets. Lowering of spending for the ICDS is not justified when India has the highest number of under-five deaths according to a UNICEF Report of 2018. The Non Banking Finance Corporations are apprehensive to lend money to the MSMEs and are charging very high rate of interest. As a result they too are in rather bad shape.

Joining the discussion, Shri Abhishek Banerjee (INC) said that the concerns of the middle class, the lower middle class, the minority, the SC, ST, OBC of the country have not at all been taken care of in the Budget. The Government talks of three pillars – Aspirational India, Economic Development and Caring Society but the actual situation flies quite high in the face of such lofty claims. There is no noticeable economic development anywhere. People are losing jobs. Manufacturing units are being closed down. Investment is at 17 years low, manufacturing is 15 years low and agriculture is 4 years low. Yet the Government is making tall claims of propelling the economy to the trajectory of five trillion dollars. Since the Government came to power, we have witnessed triple murder viz. demonetization, erroneous roll out of GST and proposed privatization of Public Sector Enterprises including LIC. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has also miserably failed to settle the claims made by the farmers. The Centre Government's Make in India is not helping in creation of jobs. The Budget speech has not addressed the grave concerns of unemployment. The Defence Budget has been raised by just five per cent. This will stall the procurement of important military equipment. The country does not need bullet train. The Government should spend that money to build freight corridors. The time has come for the Government to take austerity measures.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman said that in 2014-15 the size of the Indian economy was about two trillion and by 2019-20, it has reached 2.9 trillion. That is the rate at which our economy is growing. Highlighting those important indicators which show that there are green shoots in the economy, the Minister said that the country has attracted a net FDI of 24.4 billion US dollars from April to November in 2019-20. The announcement of the National Infrastructure Pipeline

may further increase the flow of FDI into the country even for brownfield projects. Foreign Exchange Reserves have built to 466.69 billion in US dollars as of 24th January, 2020 reflecting an increasing confidence of overseas investors in the Indian economy. GST collection is steadily and only improving thereby bringing in newer and greater investments to the economy and reducing the business cost. Most often when we talk about economy, we constantly and rightly refer to the four growth engines, namely private consumption, private investment, public investment and exports. The Government is constantly in touch with the industry, with the MSMEs, with stakeholders of all kinds so that the steps that we take actually trigger all the four engines towards speedy growth.

To achieve this goal, Cabinet has approved the IBC Bill which helped in fast tracking the insolvency resolution process. Under National Infrastructure Pipeline, a task force has been formed and Rs. 103 lakh crores worth of projects have been announced. The Government has proposed an amalgamation of ten public sector banks into four with a view to create next generation banks. Under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana 1.95 crore houses are to be provided in the rural areas and guidelines have been relaxed for financing of homebuyers. The Government has also taken various steps for auto sector. The GST rate on all electric vehicles has been reduced. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi has been extended to all eligible farmers irrespective of the size of the holdings. With regard to personal income tax, an alternative way is being given with completely reduced tax rates. For improving exports, RoDTEP will replace the MEIS which will more than adequately compensate and incentivise exporters. In our effort to do all this, we have not reduced the sectoral allocation for any of the important sectors. For Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes BE of 2020-21 has been increased. Similarly, for women and children, BE for 2020-21 funds have been increased. In BE 2020-21 it will come down to 3.5. Similarly, capital expenditure now has gone up 21 per cent. The Government have been taking care of employment issue and crores of people have been provided jobs under various schemes. As regards MNREGA, the Government has been increasing allocations to MNREGA at every stage. So, the Government is taking care of building a very sound economy.

The discussion was concluded.

Short Duration Discussion on the recent law and order situation in some parts of Delhi: A short duration discussion on the recent law and order situation in some parts of Delhi was held on 11 March 2020.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury (INC) said that the horrible spectre of communal conflagration that had occurred in Delhi has been haunting our memory which is why the entire country is at unrest and wants to know as to what led to the occurrence of such incident and what preparation have been made to thwart their recurrence in future. Shri Chowdhury questioned the Government by saying that in places like Delhi which is the capital of India, where there is no paucity of police personnel, why such incident was allowed to take place. The Government of the day particularly the Minister of Home Affairs owes an explanation on this count. He further said that when a judge of Delhi Court vehemently rapped the power that be and directed the police to institute FIRs against those delivering hate speeches, he was transferred overnight. Even the Supreme Court has observed "Had the police acted the way law required them to act and stopped people from inflammatory remarks, the spiral of violence could have been averted and live saved." Shri Chowdhury said that the FIRs should be filed immediately by the Delhi Police against all perpetrators as well as inciters. A judicial inquiry must be conducted by a sitting Judge of the High Court/Supreme Court to ensure impartial inquiry. The State Government should provide immediate relief, establish sufficient relief centres and provide rehabilitation to the victims and affected people. The State Government should immediately conduct a comprehensive damage assessment in the affected areas and provide compensation. A Committee should be formed by the State Government in Mohallas where it is required, consisting of members of all communities.

Joining the discussion, Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi (BJP) said that irrespective of the religion followed by the riot victim, he was an Indian first. 51 people have died and 500 people are under treatment in the hospitals. An IB officer was stabbed 400 times. Only an extremist can do such a crime full of hatred. This was an organised plan which was a way of showing power by those who have lost their political might. Smt. Lekhi said that the Government had contained the riots within 36 hours. All the leaders sitting here know the CAA very well but even then they are trying to mislead the common man. They are continuously trying to incite the people. On 25th February, Hon'ble Home Minister held a review meeting with the officers. In the meeting, the Hon'ble Home Minister requested all those who were present in the meeting to rise above the party politics so as to control the situation. On 26th February, Hon'ble Home Minister took another review meeting with the senior officers in the morning and thereafter briefed the Cabinet about the conditions in Delhi. Smt. Lekhi said that in fact, some international powers have succeeded in creating many freelancers of chaos in India who are constantly working for their sponsors against the interest of India. She said that the Home Minister should continue the good

works undertaken in the interest of the country under the able-leadership of the Hon'ble Prime Minister because these works are the foundations of nation-building and will also unite the people. The majority people may be silent but they are standing rock solid behind the Government.

Participating in the discussion[‡], Shri T.R. Baalu (DMK) said that the law and order situation in Delhi is not only being discussed in this temple of democracy, the Indian Parliament, but is also being discussed in the Parliaments of United Kingdom, Indonesia, Iran, Turkey and Malaysia. He said that a paradoxical situation prevails in Delhi. In a place called Shaheen Bagh, for the last 88 days, people are observing dharna without any commotion or creating any law and order situation for the people living around. In Shaheen Bagh only anti-CAA protestors had been participating in dharna while in Jafrabad, proCAA people belonging to the ruling party were also involved. The Delhi Police is known for their professional efficiency where they can rise to any occasion at any point of time. Why all went wrong? The police have not come to the rescue of the people to see that peace in Delhi could prevail. Shri Baalu also said that the Government of India should compensate the families of the deceased. The media persons should be assisted properly for their loss of equipment. All accused should be brought to books without any loss of time. There should also be a judicial enquiry headed by a retired Supreme Court Judge.

Participating in the discussion, Prof. Sougata Ray said that as he was listening to the speech of the Hon'ble Member of the ruling party, her speech, if made outside the Paliament, could be termed as a hate speech. Prof. Ray demanded a judicial inquiry into the riots by a sitting Supreme Court Judge and total rehabilitation for all those riot affected victims.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah expressed his deepest condolences to those who lost their lives in these communal riots and the bereaved families and also assured assistance to those who have suffered injuries and damage to their properties. He said that these riots are being painted in a different way before the whole world and the same is being done in the august House. Responding to the question being raised on as to what Delhi Police was doing, the Hon'ble Home Minister said that the Delhi Police has managed

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‡ **Others who participated in the discussion were**: Sarvashri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut, Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Pinaki Misra, Ritesh Pandey, P.K. Kunhalikutty, Jayadev Galla, Hasnain Masoodi, Kanumuru Raghu Rama Krishna Raju, K. Subbarayan, Thomas Chazhikadan, Bhagwant Mann, Asaduddin Owaisi, Nalin Kumar Kateel, Vijay K. Hansdak, N.K. Premachandran, Tejasvi Surya, Dr. Shafiqur Rehman Barq, Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe, Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, Adv. A.M. Ariff and Smt. Vanga Geetha Viswanath

it very well. Delhi Police has confined the violence to 4 per cent area and 13 per cent of population and has managed to control the riots within 36 hours. Replying to some Hon'ble Members who have raised question on what the Home Minister is doing, he said that they do have the right to raise question about me but nobody has the right to manipulate the facts. On 24th February 2020 at 7 p.m., on 25th at 8 a.m. and on 25th noon, an all party meeting, which was attended by Congress and AAP, was held. All these review meetings were conducted under the Chairmanship of the Home Minister upto 6.30 p.m. on 25th February 2020.

So far as the question of NSA is concerned, the Hon'ble Home Minister said that it was he himself only who had requested Shri Ajit Dobhal to go there to boost the morale of the Police. He submitted that the special C.P. was appointed immediately and immediate investigation was started and further action was initiated. North East Delhi has a total area of 61 square kilometers. It is the most densely populated area of India. The lanes are narrow where Police vans, two wheelers and fire brigade cannot enter. It has a mixed population of both the communities and has a history of riots. A lot of history sheeters are there in that area. A total 30 companies including 17 companies of Delhi Police and 13 companies of CRPF are deployed in this area on 22nd and 23rd February keeping in view the situation there. On 24th February, 40 more companies were sent. On 25th February, 50 more companies were sent. From 26th, 27th, 28th and 29th February, more than 80 companies have been deployed. Striking force of Vajra Vahan and water cannon has also been created and the action to nab the guilty has been initiated. From 27th February to 11 March 2020, more than 700 FIRs have been registered. Around 2647 people have been arrested. The details of CCTV and video footages are being analysed on more than 25 computers. The people of Delhi have sent videos in thousands to Delhi Police. The identification process of faces through face identification software has also been started. The borders of UP were sealed at 10 p.m. on 24th February 2020. Two SIT teams have been set up which are being led by Senior most Police Officers. 49 cases of Arms Act have been registered and around 152 arms used in these riots, have been recovered within a short span of time.

The Home Minister said that the meeting of Peace Committee was started on 25th February at 4 p.m. and more than 650 meetings of the Peace Committee with people of all communities have been conducted. Besides, a case of conspiracy has also been registered. Three persons, who have financed the Delhi riots have been arrested by Delhi Police and the enquiry will move further after gathering information from them. There are ten important cases related to

riots which are being investigated into by forming a separate team of senior officers. All this investigation has been done on scientific bases.

Efforts are being made to misguide the entire country. Misconception is being spread that the riots took place as the pro-CAA people hit the roads. As the hate speech becomes viral in the era of social media, it shows its colours. The Home Minister said that after the aggressive speeches on the night of 22nd February and in the morning of 23rd February, various protests and tension took place at 8-9 places in Delhi which culminated into the riots of 24th February. He said that it is a conspiracy, because around 60 social media accounts were created on 22nd and were closed on 26th.

The Home Minister assured the people of Delhi that letters have been written to the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi to constitute a Claim Commission. He said that those who have set fire on the shops, vehicles and public properties be identified on the basis of videography and their entire property will be ceased. Replying to a question raised by a Hon'ble Member on as to many Hindus and Muslims have lost their lives and how many shops of Hindus and Muslims were set on fire respectively, the Home Minister said that he does not want to discriminate between Hindus and Muslims. He only knew that 52 Indians have lost their lives and 526 Indians have been injured. The shops of 371 Indians and 142 Houses were set on fire.

The Home Minister said that that nobody wants the riots. Riots should not take place under any Government. But it appears that prima-facie, it has been attempted under a well-thought out conspiracy. Not only expressing his condolences for each and every life lost in the riots of Delhi the Minister assured that nobody will be spared who have snatched the life of their near and dear ones. Rioters will be punished severely.

The Discussion was concluded.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020: On 17 March, 2020, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs; Minister of State of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said that the amendments which are very specific in nature emanate from the fact that three of the bodies, namely the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau

control ‘Civil Aviation’. These have been operating under executive order. The Indian Civil Aviation Sector has grown exponentially. It is today the world's third largest domestic civil aviation market. He further said that as we have felt for a long time and as our membership of the Chicago Convention and ICAO, their audits have pointed that these three crucial agencies of the civil aviation sector have been operating under an executive order. The need, therefore, is to give them statutory backing and that is a limited purpose of these amendments. The Minister said that it stands to reason that the civil aviation governance structure, which involves not only the Central Government but also all the constituent stakeholders like the DGCA, BCAS and the AAIB, must have statutory provision. They must be constituted under a law, and that is the purpose of this amendment to the Act. The minister said that the civil aviation sector, which has been a critical driver of economic growth so far in all these years, will grow from strength in spite of facing a number of challenges.

Initiating the discussion, Dr. M. K. Vishnu Prasad (INC) said that the Bill gives a statutory status to the Directorate of Civil Aviation, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation and the Aircrafts Accident Investigation Bureau. The Government has the full power to constitute and appoint the Director Generals. There is no doubt about it. The centralisation of power is the crux of these Amendments. It also enhances the fine to the maximum limit for breaches under this Bill which is from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 1 crore. Dr. Prasad asked that whether the fine is applicable to individual or it is applicable to Government agencies like Director Generals? Basically, the aviation sector in recent times is undergoing a turbulent time. This is because of the imposition of heavy aviation fuel tax. Price is not at all standard in the civil aviation sector. The passengers are facing a heavy problem. The Government will have to have some kind of price regulations because air travel is not a luxury anymore. Dr. Prasad said that Air India is facing a lot of difficulties in paying salaries to its employees in time. He requested the Hon’ble Minister to look into the matter and urged upon the Government to consider the proposal of an airport in Cheyyar, which is his constituency.

Participating in the discussion[§], Shri Jayant Sinha (BJP) said that the Aircraft Act, 1934 was urgently required to be amended in order to sort out the complex issues related to the

[§] Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Kalyan Banerjee, Vinayak Bhaurao Raut, Pinaki Misra, Sunil Kumar Pintu, B.B. Patil, Rajiv Pratap Rudy, E.T. Mohammed Basheer, Kanumuru Raghu Rama Krishna Raju, Syed Imtiaz Jaleel, M. Selvaraj, N.K. Premachandran, Hanuman Beniwal, P. Raveendranath Kumar, Bhagwant Mann, H. Vasanthakumar, Dnv. Senthilkumar S., Sanjay Seth, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Adv. A.M. Ariff, Kunwar Danish Ali and Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule

aviation sector. The aviation sector has witnessed exponential growth. Today, the Country has 105 operational airports and very soon there will be more than 200 operational airports. This unprecedented status has been achieved so very quickly to become the third largest aviation market domestically in the world and very soon, domestic-plus international. Shri Sinha said that one of the most important programmes that the Government has undertaken in the aviation sector in the last few years is UDAAN i.e. 'Ure Des Ka Aam Nagrik'. There is an Air Seva Programme through which any grievance can be logged through a mobile app, through a website and through various forms of social media as well. This is the only such consumer grievance redressal mechanism around the world and a notable innovation brought into air travel to make air travel even better. Some years back the Government had introduced 'No Fly List'. All the personnel engaged in the aviation sector have worked day and night in tracking and screening of Corona virus. Although aviation sector of the Country is functioning quite well, 3 important regulatory agencies need to be given statutory recognition. With this Bill these agencies will be made statutory bodies.

Joining the discussion, Shri C. N. Annadurai (DMK) said that the objective of this Bill is to improve upon the safety and security standards in the Aviation sector. India has the distinction of being the third largest civil aviation market in the world. The country, being the signatory to the Chicago Convention, is required to ensure international standards of safety requirements for civil aviation. Enhancement of fine from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 1 crore for violators of security is justifiable for the sake of enhanced security. Air worthiness aspect of aircraft and proficiency of flight crew and ground engineers is vital for safety and security of the passengers. An airport at Tiruvannamalai under UDAN Scheme may be given priority. He opposed privatisation of Air India.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Minister of State of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri said that the amendment is being brought in 2020 to try, to a limited extent, to bring the Indian Aircraft Act of 1934 upto date in the important area of aircraft and civil aviation security, management of the regulator, DGCA. The Minister said that the Government has no choice but to ensure that these three bodies crucial to the functioning of the civil aviation sector in India, have the position as statutory bodies. The issue of shortage of ATCs has been raised here. There are a total number of 3,500 very qualified

Air Traffic Controllers today. In the last two or three years, the Government has recruited another 1,000 ATCs and next year will be recruiting another 250 ATCs. About the issue of affordability of air fares, the Minister stated that the civil aviation sector of the country today stands deregulated. The Government does not set air fares. Today air travel is no longer a luxury and it is a necessity. The Government has to make sure that air fares are affordable but airlines also must be viable. The cost of the ATF constitutes 40 per cent of the overall operating cost of an airline. Therefore the Government must rationalize the tax structure on ATF and it needs to be brought under GST with full input tax credit and it should be linked from petrol and diesel. The Minister said that there is some code of conduct inside an aircraft. The CAR shows complaints of a particular nature need to be addressed. If somebody misbehaves in an aircraft, every airline is required to follow a procedure set out by the DGCA. According to that procedure, the complaint has to come from the pilot of the aircraft who makes the complaint. Then, the aviation company sets up an internal committee. That committee makes the determination. Anyone who threatens the physical security of an aircraft, inside the aircraft, while it is airborne, deserves no consideration. The Minister said that one of the very important issues raised about the DGCA is that on the other hand, it says that some particular kinds of incidents have taken place but on the other hand, it is taking no action. DGCA as a regulator was amongst the first globally which started taking cognizance of 320 New Pratt & Whitney Engines and decided that no aircraft would take to the skies unless it has one engine which was otherwise not part of this category. So, these engines have already been changed.

Addressing the issues raised on affordability the Minister said that according to IATA's estimate, global aviation may lose between 63 billion US Dollars and 113 billion US Dollars on account of the coronavirus. In order to make the system viable, the airlines have to survive also. So, the Government needs to take a judicious look at both air fares and the viability of airlines. Air India is a first-rate asset. It has about 120 planes. It flies to 50 international destinations and 80 domestic destinations. It has very well qualified and experienced engineers and pilots. But today, Air India’s annual loss should be about Rs.7,000 crore to Rs.8,000 crore. It has an accumulated loss of about Rs.62,000 crore. They tied to government, finds themselves at a complete disadvantage vis-à-vis private carrier. On the last occasion, our inability to sell Air India was on account of the fact that we wanted to withhold 25 or 26 per cent. We are losing Rs. 26 crore per day. The Government has decided to ensure the interest of staff of Air India. Air India has not recruited for many years. Therefore, there is no extra staff. In any case, whoever buys the airlines will need the people, the pilots, the engineers, the cabin crew, in order to run the

airlines. So, we will ensure that our people who have served the nation with great distinction in Air India are taken care of. We are willing to setup the infrastructure but those who operate the flight will make a decision based on the business potential and based on the viability of the route. Insofar as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) or drones are concerned, according to current assessment, 3 - 4 lakh drones should operate in airspace of the Country.

The Bill as amended was passed.

The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020: On 18 March 2020, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan moving the Motion for Consideration of the Bill said that the amendment to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971, is proposed with a view to increase upper gestation limit for the termination of pregnancy, and also for strengthening access to comprehensive abortion care under strict conditions without compromising service and quality of safe abortion. When the original Bill was brought in 1971, India was amongst one of the first few countries in the whole world to legalise abortion in order to provide legal and safe abortion services to women who required to terminate a pregnancy due to certain therapeutic or humanitarian grounds. However, with the advancements of medical technology for safe abortion, there is a scope for increasing upper gestational limit for terminating pregnancies. The Bill is a step towards the safety and wellbeing of women and will enlarge the ambit and access of women to safe and legal abortion without compromising on safety and quality of care.

The Minister further said that the Bill also ensures dignity, autonomy, confidentiality and justice for women who need to terminate pregnancy. In the last decade several writ petitions have been filed before various Courts, seeking permissions for aborting pregnancies at gestational age beyond the present permissible limit on the grounds of foetal abnormalities or pregnancies due to sexual violence forced on women. The Minister informed that before bringing this Bill, the Government had a very extensive consultative process with all the possible stakeholders. The Bill provides for requirement of opinion of one registered medical practitioner for termination of pregnancy up to 20 weeks of gestation; requirement of opinion of two registered medical practitioners for termination of pregnancy for 20 to 24 weeks of gestation; enhancing the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks for such category of women as may be prescribed by rules in this behalf; non-applicability of provisions relating to the length of pregnancy in cases where the termination of pregnancy is necessitated by the diagnosis of any substantial foetal abnormalities diagnosed by a Medical Board; and strengthening of protection

of privacy of a woman whose pregnancy has been terminated. The failure of contraceptive clause has been expanded to woman and her partner. This is a very progressive legislation. On a number of occasions, various courts have mentioned that there should be review of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 and that is the reason why the Government has brought this amendment before the august House.

Initiating the discussion, Sushri S. Jothimani (INC) said that Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 is a very significant step in the right direction. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 is in place in India. Though this Act has legalized abortion with a gestation period of 12 to 20 weeks, it failed to keep pace with the current social, medical and technological developments. Finally, the time has come to amend the 49-year old law on medical termination of pregnancy. This Bill has extended the pregnancy termination time period from 20 weeks in the principal Act to 24 weeks. It has also enhanced the gestation limit for 'special categories' of women which includes survivors of rape, victims of incest and other vulnerable women and minors. It also protects the privacy of women. Significantly, the Bill also applies to unmarried women. Raising concerns regarding the Bill, Sushri Jothimani further said that the preference for a male child keeps sex determination centres in business in spite of their illegal status. Women will be forced by their partners or husbands to abort the child. This has to be taken care of. A woman who does not fall into the special category would not be able to seek an abortion beyond 20 weeks, even if she suffers from a grave physical or mental injury due to pregnancy like miscarriage. The Bill does not ensure privacy for women, girls under POSCO due to the requirement of mandatory reporting under POSCO. It can act as a deterrent for adolescent girls from accessing safe abortion services in situations where the perpetrator is a family member. The Bill still does not allow abortion on request at any point after pregnancy. There is an acute shortfall of almost 75 per cent of gynaecologists at CHC level across in the country. In such a scenario, no undue burden should be placed on women and their families to get necessary diagnosis and approval of medical boards. Sushri Jothimani suggested that women members must also be part of the institutional 'committees' comprising of senior medical officers/Chief Medical Officers, consultants from different departments. Awareness programmes must be implemented, especially at the Panchayat level in rural areas. Sushri Jothimani requested the Minister to address the issue of child pregnancy and said that the Government needs to ensure that all norms and standardized protocols in clinical practice to facilitate abortions are followed in health care institutions across the country. It should allow abortion on request of the woman rather than approval of the medical practitioner or board.

Participating in the discussion[**], Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo (BJP) said that the Bill assumes greater significance as India aims to bring down the maternal mortality ratio from the current level of 122 per lakh live births to 70 per lakh live births by 2030. She also said that aborting a 24-week foetus is a huge responsibility and our healthcare systems specially in rural India are not really equipped to handle that. Adequate arrangements for it should be made. Enhancing the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks for survivors of rape victims, incest minors and other vulnerable women including differently abled women is the necessity for ensuring dignity, confidentiality, reproductive autonomy and justice for women. The Bill is really progressive as it will help a lot of young women to deal with unwanted pregnancies lawfully and in a safe environment. Another very sensitive provision of confidentiality is also laudable. The Bill stands testimony to efforts for empowering women.

Joining the discussion, Shri Gautham Sigamani Pon (DMK) said that the amendment in this Bill proposes to extend the existing twenty weeks to twenty-four weeks in eligible cases with medical conditions is a welcome step. This extension will help out cases of congenital anomaly, lunatic pregnancy, cases of rape, unwed, widow pregnancies and curtail illegal terminations carried out by quacks and consequent loss of precious lives. He suggested that an all-women board should be constituted to rule on eligibility. The Board must have social scientist counselor also though medical expertise cannot be divided in man or woman but woman's viewpoint may be more valid and compassionate in this regard.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare; Minister of Science and Technology, and Minister of Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan said that except one, all the Members have supported the Bill. All have agreed that abortion is the major contributor to the maternal mortality rate. This provision is not for extending the term of abortions in normal circumstances. The term has been extended from 20 weeks to 24 weeks for those women who have become pregnant due to certain unfortunate circumstances or their child is likely to remain handicapped for life. Sufficient checks and balances have been put in place even for such cases. All the suggestions would be considered when the rules would be framed. The MTP Act, 1971 already legalizes the abortion of upto 20 weeks. The amendment Bill seeks

[**] Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Chandeshwar Prasad, Ritesh Pandey, Feroze Varun Gandhi, Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, P. Raveendranath Kumar, Nihal Chand Chouhan, Ravi Kishan, Kumari Goddeti Madhavi, Adv. Dean Kuriakose, Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar, Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe, Dr. Rajashree Mallick, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy, Dr. Thol Thirumaavalavan and Shrimati Jaskaur Meena

to extend this period of 20 weeks to 24 weeks. There is no violation of Article 21 in any manner. All the stakeholders and the ministries concerned were consulted before drafting this Bill. In order to ensure safety of these late term abortions, a group of experts need to give an opinion on the procedure and safety of procedures on a case to case basis. Hence, the medical boards are necessary for late term abortions. Although, the decision of termination of pregnancy should be with the women only, the safety and wellbeing of women has been taken into account along with the right of the women.

The Bill was passed.

The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020: On 19 March, 2020, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) and Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik moving the motion for consideration of the Bill said that this Bill seeks to prepare a certification course on its own and to harness hidden potential of the Ayurveda. This Bill will go a long way in ensuring development of third curriculum in the Ayurveda by the institute as well as extending inter disciplinary co-operation. According the status of National importance to the AYUSH systems of medicines in pursuit of tackling the challenges facing on public health front in India will add the significance of Ayurveda beyond measure. This Bill also result in the curtailment of public expenditure on health services.

Initiating the discussion, Dr. Shashi Tharoor (INC) said that there is so much interest on country's traditional healing system these days. From the perspective of market conditions, in 2015, the global market for Ayruvedic products amounted to nearly 3.4 billion dollars, a number that will nearly triple to 9.7 billion dollars by the year 2022. Kerala State has been the engine of such remarkable growth and expansion in the field of Ayurveda. The state harbours nearly 1,400 industries associated with Ayurveda. There are factors that continue to pose challenges to realise the full potential of Ayurveda. Some critics have said that Ayurveda was a system without any science. Dr. Tharoor said that in the absence of credible documentation and case studies on the proven benefits of the treatment of Ayurveda in specific cases the critics may term it as a system without any scientific base. Ayurveda caters to nearly 65 per cent or 70 per cent of our population in rural India but nothing has been done to safeguard its practitioners and their store of knowledge. Ayurveda is a total system of medicine, meant to treat the body and mind as a whole and cannot be reduced to merely superficial treatment. We should be flexible in our approach in generating awareness of Ayurveda. He also said that investment in R & D is not

enough. The Ayush Ministry allowed 138 under-staffed and ill-equipped colleges to teach courses in Ayurveda Science and Surgery both at post-graduate and at under-graduate level. This was in contravention of the recommendations of the Central Council of Indian Medicine. One of the first ever Ayurvedic colleges in the country - the Government Ayurveda College was set up in Thiruvananthapuram in the year 1889. Even though it is much older than the Gujarat Ayurveda university, the fact is that it has not even been upgraded to a university. The selective conferment of Institute of National Importance status is also an issue. There are no set parameters to evaluate the institutions. He requested the Government to set up a similar national university at Thiruvananthapuram.

Joining in the discussion[††], Shrimati Poonamben Maadam (BJP) said that Ayurveda is considered the oldest system of medicine and healthcare. This is a proud fact for every Indian that Ayurveda has its roots in India but it is sad that we are getting away from this traditional system. This university at Jamnagar has tried to take the Ayurveda to international level by associating with the WHO. This great institute was founded in 1952. This institute imparts education in Ayurveda, Ayurvedic pharmacy and medicinal plants up to P.G. and Ph. D. levels. The institute has many significant achievements to its credit. The institute has developed many treatment protocols and many treatment guidelines for various diseases. It has published many journals and many papers. Foreign students also come and study here. There is a wide spread awareness of alternative healthcare system across the world. The world market of Ayurveda is also expanding. Earlier, people used to come to India only for medical treatment. Now, they are focussing on Ayurveda and wellness treatment. The Bill seeks to achieve multifold objectives. It will provide autonomy to the institute. It will give an enhanced status to the growing role of AYUSH system in addressing public health challenges.

Participating in the Discussion, Dr. Kalanidhi Veeraswamy (DMK) said that Ayurveda is a very rich traditional form of medicine which has its roots in India. Ayurveda is all about teaching how to lead a healthy life. Apart from that, the medical and surgical techniques were

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[††] Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Kanumuru Raghu Rama Krishna Raju, Vinayak Bhaurao Raut, Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, Vijay Kumar, Ramesh Chandra Majhi, Ram Shiromani Verma, E.T. Mohammed Basheer, Anto Antony, P. Raveendranath Kumar, N.K. Premachandran, M. Selvaraj, Sumedhanand Saraswati, Thomas Chazhikadan, Ramcharan Bohra, M.K. Raghavan, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Kodikunnil Suresh, Tapir Gao, Bhagwant Mann, Dnv Senthilkumar S., Adv. Ajay Bhatt, Dr. Bharatiben D. Shyal, Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe, Dr. Pritam Gopinathrao Munde, Dr. Sujay Vikhe Patil, Dr. Satya Pal Singh, Dr. Thol Thirumaavalavan, Dr. Dhal Singh Bisen, Sushri Sunita Duggal, Sushri S. Jothmani and Shrimati Pratima Mondal

used even 2000 years back. Sushruta Samhita explains different surgeries. Giving one particular institute the status of Institute of National Importance is not any great service to this science. There has to be a Council to monitor the functioning of the practitioners. Similarly, they should have journals that describe the minute details of process for the preparation of medicines. The Government should provide adequate funds for this particular department to encourage more research. The literature on Ayurveda should be translated into other languages for better propagation of this knowledge.

Replying to the discussion, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik said that AYUSH emphasises on promotion of positive health through controlling diseases, proper diet and Yoga practice. It aims to reduce the dependence of people on medicine and promote holistic health and welfare at community level. During the last five years, AYUSH Ministry has taken many initiatives in promoting Ayurveda and other traditional systems. Under National Ayush Mission there should be a hospital for every system like Ayurveda, Homeopathy, Siddha, Unani etc. in every district. Work has already been started on 102 hospitals under this mission. The Minister said that all the proposals received by the Government have been accorded approval. Earlier, no insurance company was willing to include AYUSH but now 27 companies are ready for this. Providing quality AYUSH education is one of our main objectives. There are 700 graduate and post graduate level AYUSH colleges in the country in which around 45,000 students receive professional AYUSH education. 11 AYUSH institutes are working as health bodies at the national level. All the 4 systems have their research councils which are working very well. The Government's endeavour is to see that each state has national institute of every system. The passing of the Bill will provide opportunities for high quality education in Ayurveda. The Minister requested all the Hon'ble Members to pass the Bill.

The Bill was passed.

C. QUESTION HOUR

The Third Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha commenced on 31 January, 2020. It was scheduled to conclude on 3 April, 2020. However, in the wake of the spread of COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown in the country, the sittings of the Session were curtailed and the House adjourned *sine-die* on 23 March, 2020.

A chart showing Grouping of Ministries, dates of sittings, dates of ballots and last dates of receipt of notices of questions during the Session was circulated to Members along with

Bulletin Part-II dated 15 January, 2020. The notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions for the Session were received with effect from 16 January, 2020, the day following issuance of Summons. The last date of receiving notices of Questions was 18 March, 2020. However, the last date of receiving notices of Questions for the sitting on 23 March, 2020 i.e. the date on which the House adjourned *sine-die* was 5 March, 2020.

The actual number of notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions tabled by the Members were 32967 (SQ 18082 + USQ 14885). However, as a result of splitting few questions, where two or more Ministries were involved, the number of notices of Starred and Unstarred Questions increased to 33156 (SQ 18180 + USQ 14976). 9 Short Notice Question (SNQ) notices were also received from Members. The maximum and minimum number of notices of Questions included for ballot in a day were 1352 (SQ 735 + USQ 617) for the sitting held on 16 March, 2020 and 891 (SQ 481+ USQ 410) for the sitting scheduled to be held on 3 April, 2020. The maximum and minimum number of Members whose names were included for the ballot was 335 for the sitting on 17 March, 2020 and 218 for the sitting on 3 February, 2020.

Notices were examined in the light of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, Directions by the Speaker, Parliamentary conventions and past precedents to decide their admissibility or otherwise. Out of 33165 notices of Starred, Unstarred and Short Notice Questions received including split questions, **419**[‡‡] Questions were included in the lists of Starred Questions and **4823**[§§] questions in the lists of Unstarred Questions.

The Ministry-wise break-up of admitted Notices of Questions shows that both the Minister of Finance and Minister of Health and Family Welfare answered the maximum number of questions (Starred and Unstarred), i.e 291, followed by the Minister of Human Resource Development who answered 280 Questions (both Starred and Unstarred).

[‡‡] 1 Starred Question tabled by Shri Benny Behanan, MP (SQ No. 251 dated 11/03/2020 - M/o Defence) was deleted due to suspension of the Member from the service of the House under Rule 374 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

[§§] 5 Unstarred Questions for 6 March, 2020 were deleted due to suspension of the Members viz. one each tabled by Shri Gaurav Gogoi, MP (USQ No. 2567 - M/o Women and Child Development), Shri Benny Behanan, MP (USQ No. 2638 - M/o AYUSH), Shri T.N. Prathapan MP (USQ No. 2661 - M/o Environment, Forest and Climate Change), Adv. Dean Kuriakose MP (USQ No. 2662 - M/o Health and Family Welfare) and Shri Rajmohan Unnithan, MP (USQ No. 2750 - M/o AYUSH)

2 Unstarred Questions for 11 March, 2020 were also deleted due to suspension of Members viz. one each tabled by Shri T.N. Prathapan, MP (USQ No. 2818 - M/o Railways and Shri Gurjeet Singh Aujla, MP (USQ No. 2826 - M/o Statistics and Programme Implementation).

Names of 423 Members were included in the Lists of Starred and Unstarred Questions. The maximum number of questions by any member admitted/clubbed were 67 against the name of Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato.

The maximum and minimum number of Members whose names were included in the Lists of Questions was 296 on 20 March, 2020 and 218 on 3 February, 2020, respectively.

Six (6) notices were received for Half-an-Hour Discussion during the Session. Out of which 4 were admitted. These notices, however, lapsed. Remaining 2 notices also lapsed on adjournment of the House *sine-die*.

Nine (9) Short Notice Question notices were received during the Session and all the notices were disallowed/lapsed.

Three (3) Statements were made by the Ministers correcting the reply already given to the questions in Lok Sabha.

A total of 98 Starred Questions were orally replied during the Session. The average number of Starred Questions answered orally per sitting was 4.9. The maximum number of Starred Questions answered orally in a single day were 9 on 3 February, 2020 and 13 March, 2020 and the minimum number of Starred Questions answered orally in a single day was 1 on 3 March, 2020.

The average number of Unstarred Questions appearing in the Lists was 229.67 per day during the Session.

A total of 5144 (321+4823) written replies to Starred and Unstarred Questions were laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha during the Session.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Baidyanath Prasad Mahto, sitting Member of the Seventeenth Lok sabha; Sarvashri N. Selvaraju, Rampal Singh, Y.V. Rao, Chander Pal Singh, Chunni Lal Bhau Thakur, P.H. Pandian, Kamal Singh, Ram Krishna Yadav, Tapas Paul, Hindurao Nilkanthrao Naik Nimbalkar and Shrimati Krishna Bose, all former members of Parliament; and His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al Said, Sultan of Oman.

References were also made by the Speaker to the tragic incident and loss of life of 17 security personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force who have been martyred and 15 personnel

injured when heavily armed Maoists opened fire on a Police Patrol Team in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh on 21 March, 2020.

Members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

RAJYA SABHA

TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIRST SESSION*

The Two Hundred and Fifty-first Session of the Rajya Sabha was scheduled to be held in two parts, i.e. from the 31st of January, 2020 to the 11th of February, 2020 and from the 2nd of March, 2020 to the 3rd of April, 2020. The first part of the Session, which commenced on the 31st of January, 2020 was adjourned on the 11th of February, 2020, to enable the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees to examine and report on the Demands for Grants of various Ministries/Departments. The House re-assembled on the 2nd of March, 2020 for the second part of the Session. However, the second part of the Session which was scheduled to end on 3rd April, 2020 came to an early end on 23rd March, 2020, on account of the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in the country. The House sat for 23 days and the actual hours of sittings were 91 hours and 19 minutes (excluding recess intervals). The House was prorogued by the President on the 29th of March, 2020.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the Session is given below:

A. STATEMENTS/DISCUSSIONS

Motion of Thanks on the President's Address to the Members of Parliament: On 4 February 2020, the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind addressed the Members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall of Parliament. The Motion of Thanks on the President's Address was moved by Shri Bhupendra Yadav of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on 4 February, 2020. The discussion took place on 4, 5 and 6 February 2020.

Moving the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, Shri Bhupendra Yadav said that the present Government has vowed for a strong nation that is compatible with the 21st century while staying connected to its rich ancient culture and has always worked towards inclusive development for all. In line with the vision of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas', the Government has conferred the Padma Shree awards to common people for their significant contribution towards society. While quoting the 'Panch Nishtha (five faiths)' of the Government, he stated that the Government has resolved the long pending Ram Mandir dispute with mutual harmony and consent of nation at large. The Government has also promised for fulfilling the dream of Mahatma Gandhi's spirit of Swaraj, Nehru's vision of modern India, Sardar Patel's vision of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat', Deen Dayal's vision for 'Antodaya' and Ram Manohar Lohiya's vision for equality in society and has taken several

* Contributed by the General Research Unit, LARRDIS, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

initiatives in this regard. He attributed the introduction and development under CAA, Aspirational Districts project, abrogation of Article 370, Act East Policy, Bodo Settlement agreement and Bru tribals settlement in Tripura as the steps towards inclusive development of country. Regarding economic sector, he highlighted the initiative taken by the government for providing clean economy namely, New electronic policy, ease of doing business, Sabka Vishwas Scheme, RuPay Card, BHIM app, JAM-a three part strategy for financial development with an aim for economic empowerment. Towards strengthening national security, the Government has taken phenomenal steps by creating the post of 'Chief of Defence Staff' and formulation of strategies for modernization of Indian army and integration of armed forces.

He added that 1737 unauthorized colonies in Delhi have been developed in line with the sustainable development of millennium goal number 11. The Government, he said, has built the Kartarpur Corridor, while acknowledging the message given by Sikh gurus, celebrated the 550th Prakash Parv of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and also indicated to celebrate the 400th Prakash Parv of Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. This government has also pledged to celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of Shri Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and has been following his ideologies of nationalism. He also congratulated the Government for various steps taken on India's space programmes such as Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayaan-3, Gaganyaan & Aditya-1. In the end he stated that after 2014, transparency has increased in every sector and requested the House not to doubt EVMs and have positive attitude towards nation building.

Furthering the discussion, Shri Satish Chandra Misra of Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) drew the attention of the House towards the rising unemployment in the country which he said was due to the huge economic crisis in the country in recent times.

Participating in the discussion[1], Shri Anand Sharma of Indian National Congress (INC) identified the President's address as ordinary and gloomy which had ignored that ground realities of the present socio-economic situation in the country and highlighted the government's disputed policies, decisions and laws. He mentioned that unanimity, one idea and one voice does not represent democracy and alleged that anything spoken in contrary to the government's policy or decisions was now being considered as rebellious and against the country.

Replying to the discussion on Motion of Thanks on President's Address, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stated that the President's Address reflected the aspirations and expectations of 130 crore Indians. While expressing his disappointment on the hopelessness expressed in the discussion by Rajya Sabha members, he clarified the

[1] Others who participated in the discussion are: Sarvashri Ghulam Nabi Azad, Sukhendu Sekhar Ray, A. Navaneethakrishnan, Javed Ali Khan, Prasanna Acharya, Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, Elamaram Kareem, Tiruchi Siva, Sanjay Raut, Dr. K. Keshava Rao.

Government's stand on Jammu-Kashmir issue and elaborated on the benefits being availed by the citizens of J&K after the abrogation of Article 370, followed by the development in North-eastern states as a part of nation building. Giving his opinion over the economic situation in the country, he informed the House that Government is intending to work together towards the creation of new methods to obtain maximum benefits of global economic situation for India. He stated that the Government has stressed on rural-urban infrastructure, MSME sector, textile sector, tourism sector that is expected to encourage the employment opportunities, technology and start-ups. He further emphasized on 'Make in India project', simplification of tax structure, merger of banks, GST, modern infrastructure development & proactive contribution of tier II &III cities, digital transaction, 100 operational airports, Digital India, broadband connectivity, financial digital transaction, BHIM app & RuPay card etc. He also informed that under "Jal Jivan Mission" Government has aimed for solving the basic problems of the country 100 per cent like 100 per cent toilets, 100 per cent houses, 100 per cent electricity, 100 per cent electricity in villages. He further mentioned about 100 aspirational districts under 'cooperative federalism', "Ayushman Bharat" for developing the health sector, opportunities for tribals, Eklavya schools, measures taken for women safety, steps taken to curb human trafficking and sexual violence against children. The Prime Minister raised his concern over the agitation on Citizen (Amendment) Act (CAA), National Population Register (NPR) displaying anti-poor mentality and creating a situation of mistrust. He concluded by stating that the world has high expectations from India in this decade and Indians have high expectations from us. Every aspiration and every resolution of India will be proved by the collective efforts of all of us and requested the House to remain together in all matters of national interest and march forward on Gandhi ji's assigned duty to build a prosperous, capable, committed new India. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the President and all Members and encouraged all to go together, to give priority to the unity and integrity of the country, to respect the high sentiments of the Constitution of India, and to contribute to the progress of the country. All the amendments moved were negatived. The Motion of Thanks was adopted.

***The Union Budget 2020-2021*:** The Union Budget 2020-21 was laid on the Table of the House by the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Corporate Affairs Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman on 1 February, 2020. The discussion on the Union Budget took place on 10 February 2020.

The discussion on the Union Budget was initiated by Shri P. Chidambaram of Indian National Congress (INC) on 10 February 2020. He began the discussion by highlighting the problems associated with the Government and their decisions viz. demonetisation, hurried

implementation of a flawed GST with unprepared system, the extremely bad economic situation with decline in growth for six quarters. He inter-alia stated that the problem with the Government is their predisposition to protectionism and to outdated philosophies. He informed that there were some good suggestions in the Economic Survey and not even a single one has been accepted and discussed. He drew attention towards the state of economy pointing at slow growth of agriculture sector, food inflation, decline in credit to MSMEs from 6.7 per cent to 1.6 per cent, limping rate of credit to industry, negative export & import growth, poor management of rising fiscal & revenue deficits resulting in decrease in capital expenditure, shortfalls in tax collections etc. He further stated that the Hon. Finance Minister's speech neither referred to the state of the economy nor the management of the economy. While highlighting the Periodic Labour Force Survey which showed the unemployment rate was a 45 year-old high at 6.1 per cent at the end of 2017-18, NSSO survey that showed that between 2011-12 and 2017-18, he added that overall consumption fell by 3.7 per cent , the rural food consumption fell by 10 per cent and 40 per cent of our children are already undernourished. He was of the view that 75th round of the NSSO's consumer expenditure survey and the 76th round of the NSSO survey of drinking water, sanitation, hygiene and housing should be released and demanded these reports to be laid on the Table of the House for debate on their credibility and to take further corrective actions. He also pointed out that even on their critical programmes, the Government is not spending the money that they had promised to spend. Quoting the statement of the Chief Economic Advisor that the economy is in an ICU, he suggested solutions that are necessary to revive aggregate demand and to incentivize investment which in his views were lacking in the Budget. He opined that India is becoming poorer and advised the Hon. Finance Minister to devote more time to economics.

Participating in the discussion[2], Shri Arun Singh of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) supported the Union Budget presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister and stated that the budget has taken care of all sections and at the same time is inclusive of a lot of provisions to realize the dream of 'New India'. He called it as a visionary budget and informed that many steps have also been taken to achieve the Prime Minister's goal of a five trillion dollar economy. While comparing the average rate of inflation, fiscal deficit, average GDP, Current Account Deficit at the time of UPA and the present government, he informed that the Government has come up with 16 action points to double the farmer's income and

[2] Others who particiapated in the discussion are: Sarvashri Arun Singh, Manas Ranjan Bhunia, A. Navaneethakrishnan, Ravi Prakash Verma, Prashanta Nanda, Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, T.K. Rangarajan, T.K.S. Elangovan, Anil Desai, Vaiko, Praful Patel, Ashok Siddharth, Jairam Ramesh, , A.K. Selvaraj, Vishmbhar Prasad Nishad, , K.K. Ragesh, Naresh Gujral, M. Shanmugam, Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar, Madhusudan Mistry, Shiv Pratap Shukla, Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha, Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe, Dr. Amar Patnaik, Ms. Dola Sen.

historically, a provision of Rs 2 lakh 83 thousand crore has been made for the farmer in this budget. He further added that the Government has introduced a scheme under 'One Product, One District', PM Kusum Yojana, facility of Krishi Train and Krishi Udan for the transportation of perishable agricultural products to promote Horticulture sector. Citing the theme of the budget which is 'Welfare of Poor, Ease of Living'', he enumerated the steps taken by the present government for the upliftment of the poor and to give them the benefit of the good governance and financial services. He stated that the minimum Government, maximum governance is being implemented in banking sector and highlighted the positive response of the initiatives of the Government like GST, Digital India, Ind-SAT, Tejas Trains, provisions for welfare of SCs and STs , Start-up India, Stand-up India etc. He concluded by saying that Vivekanandji dreamt of 21st century which will be fulfilled by this budget.

Contributing to the discussion, Shri Manas Ranjan Bhunia of All Indian Trinamool Congress (AITC) stated that the budget speech of the Finance Minister had three themes (1) Aspirational India, (2) Economic Development and (3) Caring society. He discussed about the Agricultural contribution to GDP growth that has come down to 2.1%, traders and industrialists who looted India and inability of the Government to do anything against them, the slowing down of contribution of banks to industry giving rise to unemployment, economic slowdown with rise in revenue and fiscal deficits. He was of the view that the budgetary provisions are not based on reality and our country is heading towards a situation of complete economic collapse. With the revenue deficit of more than Rs.6.50 lakh crore and fiscal deficit of Rs.7 lakh crore, he expressed that it cannot be an aspirational & developmental economy and it cannot be a caring society economy. He raised serious concerns over decline in the budget to be transferred to the states for the Central Schemes, Centrally- Sponsored Schemes & the Finance Commission's grant and decline of budget for MGNREGA. He also raised concerns over disinvestment in the profit-making PSUs, selling out Air India, BSNL, MTNL and 5 per cent sell out disinvestment even in SAIL. He cited that with demonetization and hasty implementation of GST, Lakhs of crores of rupees were not paid to the State Governments which resulted in economic crisis in all States due to non-cooperation, non distribution, and non-allocation of the GST cess to the State Governments by the Central Government. He quoted that CAPEX continues to slip despite the famed 'Ease of Doing Business'. The 'Make in India' slogan has been converted to 'Assemble in India'. He stated that there is collapse of entire economy but, the Government is not in a mood to admit it.

Participating in the discussion, Shri T.K. Rangarajan of Communist Party of India (Marxist) expressing his disappointment stated that there was nothing concrete in the Budget for agriculture, unemployment, manufacturing or for education and health. He inter-alia

raised his concerns over after effects of demonetization and GST implementation, reduction in budget for MNREGA, increasing unemployment, decrease in the food subsidy expenditure, finishing off the BPCL and LIC, reduced allocations for Health, education, Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes.

Adding to the discussion, Dr. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe of Bharaitya Janata Party (BJP) pointed out the salient features of current Budget and talked about the infrastructure development through greater participation of foreign investment, increase in turnover of Rail Vikas Nigam, FRBM Act, Citizens' Charter in the Income Tax Act, that would strengthen the rights of taxpayers, shift of government from entitlement to empowerment, 'Start-up India Scheme' etc. He further complemented the Hon. Finance Minister for her very imaginative and creative idea about apprenticeship-embedded courses in, at least, 50 higher education centres, colleges and universities and about linking the urban local bodies for providing jobs to local engineers who are fresh graduates from local engineering colleges in infrastructure projects in urban local bodies are concerned. He further discussed on the initiatives of the budget like Krishi Udaan and Kisan Rail to encourage the domestic players to invest in innovation, research and development and help to regain the market share. He drew attention of the House to the Prime Minister's appeal in his last year's 15th August (15 August, 2019) Address on our Independence Day, to avoid single use plastic. He highlighted the present Government's pace of implementation of various schemes through the effective outreach, effective use of information technology, effective use of other technologies including space technology to keep an eye on the implementation, greater transparency, effective measures to ensure accountability, greater motivation to the people who are actually implementing the scheme and emphasis on direct benefit transfer. Referring to the Indian Institute of Heritage and Culture project in pipeline, he suggested that along with the national centre, there should be the regional centres as well. He was of the view that the budget is a meaningful effort to move towards the politics of national and social correctness.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Corporate Affairs, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman welcomed all the Members who participated in the discussion. She gave clarifications on the concerns raised by the Members on various provisions of the Union Budget. She inter-alia quoted that there was increase in nominal GDP to 2.9 trillion dollars by 2019-2020, decline in the Central Government's liabilities from 52.2 per cent of GDP by the end of March, 2014, to 49.4 per cent by the end of March, 2019, based on the RBI's estimates, increase in foreign investments, investments in infrastructure development, steady improvement in Purchase Managers Index, build up of foreign Exchange Reserves from 413 billion by the end of March, 2019 to 466.69 billion as on 24th January,

2020, constant improvement of revenue collection, growth in four engines of economic growth viz. private consumption, public investment, private investments and exports. She further stated that this budget shows what extra budgetary borrowings are and where this extra budgetary borrowing is happening. Under Prime Minister Modi, fiscal discipline is maintained all through between 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17 and down till BE 2020-21. As regards MSME sector, she informed the House that there are more than seven different steps taken to protect and make it more competitive.

She further stated that the maternal mortality rate is 122 now which was 167 between 2014 and 2015, 'under-five mortality rate' per thousand live births is 37 now which was 45 in 2014-15 and Infant mortality rate, per thousand live births, has come down to 33 now which was 39 in 2014-15. She also informed about the increase in number of MBBS seats and Health Human Resources Augmentation for the National Health Mission. In the end she submitted that the Government shall even clear dues of states drawing from the earlier years in respect of GST compensation and resources of none have been cut down.

Short Duration Discussion on recent law and order situation in some parts of Delhi: *A* short duration discussion on recent law and order situation in some parts of Delhi was held in the House on 12 March, 2020.

Initiating the discussion, Shri Kapil Sibal of Indian National Congress (INC) mentioned about the unfortunate events that took place in some parts of Delhi between February 23 and February 26 and few events thereafter. While expressing the concern over the spread of Corona virus, Shri Sibal drew attention towards the spread of criminal virus in Delhi. He enumerated various incidents of riots/criminal activities in some parts of Delhi and also about the provocative speeches by political leaders, problems faced by injured in getting medico-legal help, overlooking of communal riots/mishaps by police and no registration of FIRs on cognizable offences etc. He compared the situations of Delhi riots where no action was taken by Police to prevent such riots with the Kashmir situation where swift action was taken by the police in arresting the political leaders in Kashmir to prevent riots which they anticipated might occur because of their provocative speeches. He further raised concerns over no public addresses being made by Government officials over their acknowledgement of such incidents and no assurances over protection of human lives and ongoing massive internal displacement in riots laden areas. He requested the Government to walk together in struggle to eliminate the criminal virus spread in society to ensure a better nation building.

Participating in the discussion[3], Shri Sudhanshu Trivedi of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) expressed his anguish and astonishment over the loss of human lives and humanity in the violent riots held in capital city. He cited various incidents that raised doubts over the intentions behind the conduct of structured violent protests in terms of their planning, timings and stand taken thereafter by political leaders, Delhi Police and media. He further drew attention towards the series of incidents namely, Kashmir issue, Assam issue, Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), secular and communal riots held in various parts of country, aggressive state of mind behind Ankit Sharma murder case and stated that there is need to stay alert towards the political storm behind the compassion shown over the present state of affairs in the country.

Furthering the discussion, Shri Derek O'Brien of All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) raised his concern over the perspective of children about the events in Delhi that had damaged their lives and had left them with deep scars of violence and unanswered queries about relief, rehabilitation and reconciliation. While citing Gandhiji's actions in 1946, he criticized the stance taken by Home Minister on Delhi carnage and referred it as a planned genocide. He further highlighted the failures of the Government such pogroms, lynchings, a completely torn social fabric, a ravaged economy with failing banks, job losses, damaged international standing, subverted institutions and fallen democratic norms and sought answers from the Home Minister on the healing and reconciliation of riot affected children in Delhi. He also raised concern over deployment of National Security Agency (NSA) to control riots and sought assurance from the House that there will be no second carnage in future.

Adding to the discussion, Shri Prasanna Acharya of Biju Janata Dal (BJD) questioned the Government for their callous attitude towards Delhi riots and suggested to come up with generous rehabilitation package and livelihood support for the affected population in a time bound manner. He was of the view that Government should introspect the lapses to avoid such situations to happen in the country in future. He also suggested that Government should consider and explore the options of giving CAA concession to Muslims from non-Islamic countries where Muslims are in minority.

Contributing to the discussion, Shri Anand Sharma of Indian National Congress (INC) expressed grief and sorrow over the violence that took place in various parts of Delhi and

[3] Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Sudhanshu Trivedi, Derek O'Brien, S.R. Balasubramoniyan, Javed Ali Khan, Prasanna Acharya, Swapan Dasgupta, Naresh Gujral , Ashok Siddharth, Anand Sharma, Elamaram Kareem, Tiruchi Siva, Sanjay Singh, Vijay Goel, Abdul Wahab, Prakash Javadekar, Vaiko, Bhupender Yadav, Binoy Viswam, Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha, Dr. Banda Prakash, Dr. Amar Patnaik.

insensitive and delayed action by the Government. He questioned the Government over the passive attitude of police force, provocative speeches by some persons/politicians that inflated the hatred and aggression in the society and Intelligence failure to uncover the conspiracy behind the Delhi riots. In his view, religion and politics is a dangerous mix that should not be dealt together. He requested the Government to scrutinize each and every FIR lodged during the riots and to establish a judicial commission for detailed inquiry over the unfortunate violence in the capital city of Delhi.

Replying to the discussion, the Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah conveyed his condolences to all those people and families who lost their lives and livelihood in the unfortunate riots in Delhi and gave assurance of punishing all those who were involved in creating such communal tensions and disrupting law and order situations in various parts of the capital city. He gave clarifications over the fixing of dates i.e. 11 & 12 March, 2020 for the discussions over the riots in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, respectively and gave detailed explanations to the queries raised by the Members. He informed the House about the evidence based and scientific approach exercised by the Delhi police in collecting and scrutinizing the evidences for identification and arrests of suspects. He also assured the House that Government genuinely intended to investigate the matter scientifically and judicially. He further clarified about his statement in Lok Sabha regarding his statement about the conspiracy behind the Delhi violence.

Discussion on the Working of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises took place on 18 and 19 March 2020: *A* discussion the Working of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises was held in the House on 18 and 19 March 2020.

Initiating the discussion, Shri T.K.S. Elangovan of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) Party said that the purpose of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) is to take the economy to rural areas, backward areas and to the areas where we need economic activity beyond agriculture. However, he pointed out that this sector is ignored by the Government today. In support of this statement, he stated that an amount of Rs. 1,215.06 crore sanctioned in the Budget Estimates for the financial year 2018-19 for MSME has been reduced to Rs. 1,097.40 crore in the Revised Estimates for the financial year 2018-19. He questioned the Government as to why the budget was reduced when the allocation should have been increased. He also pointed out that the unwillingness of the banks to support the MSME for funds that are needed for up gradation of their technology, for marketing and for training their people is a major problem with the MSME. He further quoted a case of the Small Industry Development Corporation Industrial Estate (SIDCO) in Tamil Nadu inundated by floods in 2005 was closed down by the Government because they could not get further

loans from the banks according to the SARFAESI Act. He urged the Government to support the MSME and the banks to lend money to MSME. He further mentioned that more than six crore people are employed in this sector and the contribution of this sector to the GDP was 45 percent in 2010-11 which has come down to 28 per cent today. He also said that MSME is an area where all round development can be seen and this is an area where the entire nation flourishes. He mentioned that reducing the budget allocation, unwillingness of the banks to provide funds and not enough support from the Government will increase unemployment and result in the suffering of workers. He also informed that the contribution of MSME to GDP from 2011 to 2019 has come down by 16 per cent as of now, which is a great loss to the economy of this country. He demanded that the Government should formulate policies in favour of MSME so as to help them, to finance them in upgrading their technologies, in training their workforce and to improve the support to marketing facilities. He also emphasized the need for the Banks to support the MSME. Lastly, he urged the Government to re-think on these aspects and do some good to the MSME Sector, which would not only help the MSME Sector to survive but also help the country in its economic development.

Participating in the discussion♦, Shri Jairam Ramesh of Indian National Congress (INC) questioned the Minister on the impact of demonetization and GST on the MSME Sector. He was critical about the hurried manner in which the GST was implemented which had adversely affected the MSME Sector. He pointed out that the double shocks of demonetization in November, 2016 and GST in July, 2017 had created major dislocation in the MSME Sector. He also questioned the steps taken to overcome the shocks and to strengthen the MSME Sector due to demonetisation and GST. He wanted to know how the Hon'ble Minister would enforce the Delayed Payments Act in letter and spirit so that one cause of sickness in the small and medium sector is obliterated and eliminated. He emphasized that the first target for smart cities should be MSME clusters and requested the Hon'ble Minister to take this idea forward. Referring to the importance of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and Traditional Industry as an important mandate of the Ministry of MSME, he suggested that it was time to corporatize and professionalize KVIC by bringing in modern management, modern finance and modern marketing into it. He requested the Hon'ble Minister to enlighten and educate them about SFURTI (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industry) Scheme, which was launched in a major way in 2005 to revive Traditional Industry. Finally, he also sought from the Hon'ble Minister information

♦ Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Arun Singh, A. Vijayakumar, Ravi Prakash Verma, Elamaram Kareem, Anil Desai, Binoy Viswam, Praful Patel, Shiv Pratap Shukla, Ripun Bora, Sushil Kumar Gupta, Shwait Malik, P. Bhattacharya, Vijayasai Reddy, Rajaram, Jugalsinh Mathurji Lokhandwala, Ram Vichar Netam, Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha, Dr. Amee Yajnik, Dr. Sasmit Patra, Dr. Banda Prakash, Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth and Ms. Dola Sen.

about the implementation of the U.K. Sinha Committee Report which was submitted to the RBI in 2019.

Replying to the discussion, Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari, the Minister of Road Transport and Highways and the Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises acknowledged that the valuable suggestions for MSME given by the Members would be useful in formulating the policy in future. Speaking on the policy of *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas*, he said that priority should be given to those who are socially, economically and educationally backward. He stated that MSME has contributed 29% in GDP, 33% in manufacturing, 48% in exports and created around 11 crore jobs in the country. He further asserted that the Government's priority was to 'Return to the Villages' so that youth of villages need not go to cities for employment.

The Minister highlighted some of the policies/schemes undertaken by the Government such as organizing of Industry Mahotsav to promote industries in Maharashtra; provision for two Solar Charkhas developed by Mahatma Gandhi Research Science Institute, Wardha to 10 lakh women who will produce best quality of yarn and distribution of Solar Charkha to one million women in five years; providing incentives to 3.5 thousand employed people under Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) and the implementation of 103 recommendations out of 120 given by World Standard Agency to study port and to give proposal to increase the efficiency. He further added that the target of the Government was to take the turnover of Khadi and Village Industries to Rs. 25 thousand crore. Special attention would be given to the business of handloom, handicrafts and honey. He added that there was immense scope to increase the production of bio-aviation fuel with the cooperation of tribal people which would also provide employment to them. Referring to the availability of huge market for bamboo based products, he informed that permission had been given for cutting of bamboo by bringing it into the category of grass and thereby, paving the way for making various kinds of products from bamboo. He also informed that 115 aspirational districts across the country had been identified for proper development of rural areas, agricultural sector and forest dwellers. He further asserted that the priority of the Government was to increase the turnover of rural industry through Khadi Gramodyog and to create employment on a large scale with the help of technology.

The Minister assured that efforts were being made to find solution to the problems faced by the MSME Sector. Replying to the queries from the Hon'ble Members regarding reduced budget of MSME, he assured that no budget had been cut and the Government was in the process of developing a mechanism to raise funds for them from some other sources. He requested all Hon'ble Members to create a cluster of workers skilled in any local art or craft

related to handloom, handicrafts etc. in their parliamentary constituencies for which a subsidy upto Rs. five crore would be given to a cluster of 500 workers. While appreciating the increasing sales of Khadi, he emphasized that corporate culture needed to be brought to this Sector. He asserted that the Government was going to redefine 'MSME' which would definitely be beneficial to every stakeholder.

Acknowledging delayed payment by various bodies and public sector undertakings of the Government sector as one of the critical reasons for the problem of MSME Sector, he informed that steps were being taken to overcome the problem like the launching of a portal named 'Samadhan', among others. He emphasized the need for payment of dues within at least three months. He also informed about a scheme for regular growth in the amount of the corpus fund of MSME Sector from Rs. 10 thousand crore to Rupees one lakh crore within five years through stock exchange. He further added that needy units of MSME would be supported through that fund as per the suggestion given by the Committee led by Shri U.K. Sinha. As regards the Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI), he said that coir, honey, bamboo, bio-fuel and fishing have been brought under this Scheme by taking technology to the villages. He further mentioned that 53 clusters had become operational and 271 more clusters were becoming operational by the end of the current year. He also added that 500 Enterprise Development Centres would provide handholding support to entrepreneurs. Speaking on funds provided by ADB and the World Bank, he informed the plans of the Government to create MSME Gateway like Alibaba. A 'Bank of Ideas Innovation and Research' would be started where each State would be evaluated on the basis of Enterprise Creation, Employment Generation, Export and Ease of Doing Business and Elimination of License Raj. Referring to the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic on MSME Sector, he said that the Ministry of MSME had made some recommendations to the Ministry of Finance.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Direct Tax *Vivad Se Vishwas* Bill, 2020[4]: On 13 March 2020, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, moved the motion for consideration of the Direct Tax *Vivad Se Vishwas* Bill, 2020 which provided for resolution of the disputed tax and the matters connected therewith and incidental thereto. While making a mention of the announcement made in the Budget in this regard she stated that a large number of income tax appeals were pending in various courts, at various levels of adjudication; people have spent years waiting for the resolution of these disputes and a lot of money had been spent both by the Government and also the parties

[4] The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 5 February 2020 and was passed there on 4 March 2020. As passed by the Lok Sabha it was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 5 March 2020.

who had gone to the courts. Hence, with the intention of settling these disputes and also in view of the experience that the Government had in having offered the *Sabka Vishwas* Scheme for the indirect taxes, Government thought of coming up with a scheme to resolve issues related to direct taxes by which tax assesses could be given relief. Hence, the Government brought in the Direct Tax *Vivad se Vishwas* Bill, 2020. Informing about the magnitude of the problem she informed, as on 30 November 2019, 4,83,000 cases or appeals were pending at various levels and tax arrears to the tune of Rs.9.32 lakh crores were stuck up. Through the Bill, she stated, the Government wanted to come up with a scheme through which long-pending disputes could be settled as per a formula without any discretion, and the option would be open to all the taxpayers.

While replying[5] to the debate, the Minister first of all thanked all for considering the Bill and understanding its importance. Speaking on the issue of breach of privilege in respect of the Circular No. 7 of 2020 wherein detailed clarifications were made through FAQs about the Bill on the basis of what was tabled in the Lok Sabha, she clarified that before these FAQs a line was clearly mentioned which said 'These clarifications are, however, subject to approval and passing of the Direct Tax *Vivad se Vishwas* Bill, 2019 by Parliament and receiving the ascent of the hon. President of India.' She assured the Members that there was no breach of privilege. Further on the question of putting pressure on tax-assesses and tax-authorities through the scheme she clarified that it is an outreach programme. She said, of course tax-authorities are supposed to take the Government schemes seriously, but not to the point of compelling anyone to come under the scheme. As regards end-date of the scheme she stated that 31 March is last date for payment without any kind of penalty or additional charge; between 31 March and 30 June people can join with additional 10 per cent payment. However, the Bill authorizes the Government to notify the end date. Hence, depending on how the scheme is working out and based on the suggestions coming from the tax assesses, the notification may be issued subsequently in this regard. She further clarified that only those disputes, which pertain to or come under the Income Tax Act, will be taken up and not those that come under the wealth tax. While replying to a query about what was being done for root cause of such disputes, she informed that the use of technology is reducing the discretionary power of tax-authorities who also have high-pitched tax assessments, and by further pursuing them, such cases are coming down to zero. She said that the Government is taking all steps to reduce such litigations. She also made it clear that the cases above Rs. 5 crores have been

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[5] Other Members who participated in the debate are: Sarvashri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Derek O' Brien, A. Navaneethakrishnan, Ravi Prakash Verma, Elamaram Kareem, P. Wilson, Naresh Gujral, Veer Singh, Narain Dass Gupta, Prof. M.V. Rajeev Gowda, Dr. Amar Patnaik and Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah.

excluded so that large evasion-related cases and fraud cases do not come into the scheme and take advantage of this scheme. While allaying fear of some Members that the scheme is going to provide amnesty to those who are covered under the demonetisation-related cases, she stated that such taxpayer will have to pay the tax as it was on undisclosed cash deposit during demonetisation *i.e.* they will have to pay 75 per cent tax for settling the dispute regarding the cash deposits, which had been made during the period of demonetisation. So, it is not an amnesty for anybody. As for nomenclature of the Bill '*Vivad se Vishwas'* she clarified that *'Vivad Se Vishwas'* should have been technically within brackets, and the Bill's name is actually 'The Direct Tax Bill, 2020'. She said, she would ensure that all regions use their local language rather than to have one expression just in Hindi, and also advertise it through a local language.

The motion for consideration of the Bill, along with Clauses etc., was adopted.

The Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020[6]: On 12 March 2020 Shri Prahlad Joshi, the Minister of Mines, moved the motion to consider the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The Bill aimed to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957) and the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 [CM (SP) Act, 2015]. The Bill was proposed to replace the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020, promulgated on 10 January 2020.

Speaking on background of the Bill, Shri Joshi informed that the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act was enacted in 1957 for a planned development of rich minerals and coal reserve. The MMDR Act of 1957 was amended many a times; however in 2015 landmark amendment was made. The method of allocation of mineral concession was shifted from first-come-first-served basis to a transparent method of e-auction, hence abolishing the discretion. To ensure that there is no shortage of any rich mineral, especially, iron ore, which is required for the steel sector and others, a transition period of a minimum of fifteen years for the captive mines and five years for the non-captive mining leases were granted to ensure uninterrupted supply of raw materials to the industry. He further informed that, mining leases, in respect of 334 iron ore mines, manganese ores and chromites ores were to expire on 31 March, 2020. Some States had initiated the auction well in advance; however, mining operations could not start at allocated mines without statutory clearances. The new lessee needed to take around twenty statutory clearances before operating and the process would cause an inordinate delay. To avoid the delay and to prevent any disruption in the supply of raw materials to the industry, certain amendments were essential. The Ordinance

[6] The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 2 March 2020 and was passed there on 6 March 2020. As passed by the Lok Sabha the Bill was laid on the table of the Rajya Sabha on 11 March 2020.

provided that after the granting of the license, they can operationalise and continue to extract ores and within the stipulated time of two years they will have to obtain clearances. By addition of new Clause 8B, almost all twenty clearances which were needed to be taken would be deemed to have been taken for two years. In these two years, the Government would prescribe the exact time they should start production. A Proviso was inserted to Section 8A (4) in the MMDR Act to enable the State Governments to take advance action *i.e.* to start the auction well before 31 March 2020. He stated that as compared to the world, exploration activities in India are very less because of no private participation and as for Government agencies, only a few have been doing it. So, for non-exclusive reconnaissance permit, Section 10C was amended for the exploration of deep seated mineral and of nationally important minerals, and for action thereof. He added that despite having the fourth largest coal reserve in the world, India is still importing it. Also, to meet the growing need of the economy, electricity production needs to be enhanced and three-fourth of the country's total electricity is produced from coal. Considering all these factors he appealed to all State Governments to support the Bill. Speaking about CM (SP) Act he said that it provides for allocation of coal mines which were cancelled by the Supreme Court. However, there was no provision for Prospecting Licence-cum-Mining Lease (PL-cum-ML) which has been added. He further informed that in re-allocation process of 204 cancelled mines, 98 of them were allocated and the remaining did not receive the required response due to end-use restriction on coal produced as per Schedule II and Schedule III of mines. To overcome such difficulties, both in coal and mining sector, changes were brought in CM (SP) Act. He informed that Section 5 and Section 17(a) are also amended to ensure that once coal blocks are identified, allocated and sent to State government for mining lease, State does not have to return it to the Centre for prior approval and reservation. He stated that this is in line with Governments' policy of – minimum Government and maximum governance and would avoid delay of almost eight to ten months for the operationalisation of mining. Section 11(a) was also amended to enable more players to participate in the bidding.

Replying to the queries[7] raised by the Members he gave justification for privatisation and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by saying that instead of importing coal by spending Rs. 2, 71,000 crore it is better to produce country's own coal and supply to its industry. This would result in production of more electricity and thereby reduction in import of oil or petroleum products. Regarding doubts that eligibility criteria have been diluted and proper

[7] Others who participated in the debate are: Sarvashri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Md. Nadimul Haque, Vishambhar Prasad Nishad, Prasanna Acharya, K. Somaprasad, M. Shanmugam, Binoy Viswam, Veer Singh, V. Vijayasai Reddy, K.K. Ragesh and Dr. Amee Yajnik.

procedure to evaluate the bidder has not been mentioned, he clarified that the eligibility criteria will be decided at the tender stage so as to allow the maximum competition, entry of all new technology and finance in the coal sector. As regards fears expressed by Members that by removal of end-use restriction the national resources would be exposed to the foreign entity, he made it clear that only Schedule II and Schedule III mines comes under end-use restriction. He added that foreign investment in the country will boost the economy and will bring new technology in the country. Moreover, on the issue of FDI in the coal sector he said that whether it is FDI or domestic players, all the existing laws and regulatory measures would be equally applicable to them. He assured that rehabilitation, resettlement of all the project-affected persons will be done properly. The Minister made further clarification regarding use of words 'any other purpose' in Section 11A, sub-section (1) which stated, ".....to carry on coal or lignite reconnaissance or prospecting or mining operations, for own consumption, sale or for any other purpose as may be determined by the Central Government". He said that the words 'any other purpose' have been used keeping in view the future prospective uses like coal gasification, coal liquification, for which auction could be done. While addressing environmental concerns he informed that as far as coal sector is concerned, there are restrictions imposed on reclamation, plantation and on usage of water. After mining, whatever water is accumulated, if it is potable, it is used for the drinking purpose or otherwise for irrigation, and also water is treated for such purposes. He stated that the Government believed in cooperative federalism and many State Governments which are having mineral reservoirs *viz.* Odisha have endorsed the Bill. He requested the House to pass the Bill.

The Mineral Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 (No. 1 of 2020) was disapproved. The Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020, along with Clauses etc, was passed.

C. QUESTIONS

During the 251st Session, 12,412 notices of Questions (7540 Starred and 4872 Unstarred) were received. Out of these 315 Questions were admitted as Starred and 3360 Questions were admitted as Unstarred. Total 79 Starred Questions were orally answered. The total number of notices of Questions received in Hindi was 1861.

Daily average of Questions: All the Lists of Starred Questions contained 15 Questions each. On an average, 3.76 Questions were orally answered per sitting, for all the sittings having Question Hour. The maximum number of Questions orally answered was 11 on 7 February and 20 March, 2020.

During all the sittings, the list of Unstarred Questions contained 160 Questions.

Half-an-Hour Discussion: One notice of Half-an-Hour Discussion was received and lapsed (none were disallowed).

Short Notice Questions: 3 notices of Short Notice Questions were received and all were disallowed.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri Indramoni Bora, D.P. Tripathi, T.N. Chaturvedi, Maurice Kujur, S.S. Surjewala, Melhupra Vero, A.V. Swamy, Bhadreswar Buragohain, Hans Raj Bhardwaj, Puttappa Patil, M. Maddanna, Dr. Ranbir Singh and His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al Said, Sultan of Oman.

Members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

(First Part of the First Session of the Seventh Delhi Legislative Assembly)

The First part of the First Session of the Seventh Delhi Legislative Assembly commenced on 24 February, 2020 and was adjourned *sine die* on 26 February, 2020. There were 3 sittings in all.

Election of Speaker: On 24 February, 2020, Shri Ram Niwas Goel was elected as the Speaker of the Seventh Delhi Legislative Assembly.

Election of Deputy Speaker: On 26 February, 2020, Ms. Rakhi Birla was elected as the Deputy Speaker of the Seventh Delhi Legislative Assembly.

Address by the Lieutenant Governor: Being the First Session of the year, the Lieutenant Governor, Shri Anil Baijal addressed the Members of the House on 25 February, 2020. The Cabinet Minister, Shri Gopal Rai, moved the Motion of Thanks. Sixteen Members participated in the debate. The Chief Minister, Shri Arvind Kejriwal replied to the debate. The Motion of Thanks to the Address of the Lieutenant Governor was adopted by the House on 26 February, 2020.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Mewa Ram Arya, Former Member of Delhi Legislative Assembly and innocent victims of violence in North-East Delhi.

(Third Part of the First Session of the Seventh Delhi Legislative Assembly)

The Third part of the First Session of the Seventh Delhi Legislative Assembly commenced on 23 March, 2020 and was adjourned *sine die* on the same day.

Financial Business: The Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Manish Sisodia presented the Annual Budget for the Financial Year 2020-2021 alongwith the Third and Final Batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for the financial year 2019-2020 considered and passed by voice-vote.

Legislative Business: During the Session the following bills were introduced, considered, and passed. (i) The Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 2020; and (ii) The Appropriation (No.II) Bill, 2020.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the Martyrdom day of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Shaheed Raj Guru and Shaheed Sukhdev and on the

* Material contributed by the Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat

passing away of Security personnel killed in Naxalite attack on 21 March, 2020 in Sukma District of Chhattisgarh and People died due to Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Fifth Session of the Eighth Mizoram Legislative Assembly commenced on 17 February, 2020 and was adjourned *sine die* on 4 March, 2020. There were 12 sittings in all.

Financial Business: The Chief Minister, Shri Zoramthanga presented the Annual Budget for the Financial Year 2020-2021 alongwith the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2019-2020.

Legislative Business: During the Session the following bills were introduced, considered, and passed. (i) The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demand for Grants 2019-2020) Bill, 2020; (ii) The Mizoram Appropriation (Demands for Grants 2020-2021) Bill, 2020; (iii) The Mizoram Goods and Service Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 2020; (iv) The Mizoram (Land Revenue) (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020; (v) The Mizoram Animal Slaughter (Amendment) Bill, 2020; and (vi) The Mizoram (Registration of Tourist Trade) Bill, 2020.

Obituary References: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri Lalthankunga, and C. Sangzuala, both Former Members of the Mizoram Legislative Assembly.

* Material contributed by the Mizoram Legislative Assembly Secretariat

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APPENDIX – I

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE THIRD SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

1. PERIOD OF THE SESSION	31.1.2020 to 11.2.2019 & 2.3.2020 to 23.3.2020
2. NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	23
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	110 Hours and 15 Minutes
4. TIME LOST DUE TO INTERRUPTIONS/ FORCED ADJOURNMENTS	30 Hours and 3 Minutes
5. HOUSE SITTING LATE TO COMPLETE LISTED BUSINESS	21 Hours and 48 Minutes
6. GOVERNMENT BILLS	
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	09
(ii) Introduced	18
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Rajya Sabha	03
(iv) Returned by the Rajya Sabha with any amendment/ Recommendation and laid on the Table	01
(v) Discussed	15
(vi) Passed	15
(vii) Withdrawn	Nil
(viii) Negatived	Nil
(ix) Part-discussed	Nil
(x) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any Recommendation	08
(xi) Pending at the end of the Session	14
7. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	145
(ii) Introduced	Nil
(iii) Discussed	01
(iv) Passed	Nil
(v) Withdrawn	Nil
(vi) Negatived	Nil
(vii) Part-discussed	01

(viii) Pending at the end of the Session	144
8. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 184	
(i) Notice received	38
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Discussed	Nil
9. NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377	399
10. NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING ZERO HOUR	436
11. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193	
(i) Notice received	26
(ii) Admitted	01
(iii) Discussion held	01
(iv) Part-discussed	Nil
12. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197	--
13. STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS	16
14. ADJOURNMENT MOTION	
(i) Notice received	--
(ii) Brought before the House	--
(iii) Admitted	--
15. NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED BY WAY OF CALLING ATTENTION	--
16. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notice received	Nil
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Part-discussed	Nil
17. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	

(i)	Notice received	09
(ii)	Admitted	09
(iii)	Moved/Discussed	02
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
(v)	Withdrawn	01
(vi)	Negatived	Nil
(vii)	Part-discussed	01
18.	GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i)	Notices received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Moved & Discussed	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	Nil
(v)	Negatived	Nil
(vi)	Withdrawn	Nil
(vii)	Part-discussed	Nil
19.	PRIVILEGES MOTIONS	
(i)	Notice received	13
(ii)	Brought before the House	01
(iii)	Consent withheld by Speaker	Nil
(iv)	Observation made by Speaker	01
20.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITOR PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	13429
21.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS TO THE PARLIAMENT MUSEUM DURING THE SESSION	Nil
22.	TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
	(i) Starred	419
	(ii) Un-starred	4823
	(iii) Short Notice Questions	Nil
	(iv) Half-an-Hour discussions	Nil

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period	No. of Reports presented
1	**2**	**3**	**4**
i)	Business Advisory Committee	4	4
ii)	Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House	-	-
iii)	Committee on Empowerment of women	7	3
iv)	Committee on Estimates	4	-
v)	Committee on Ethics	-	-
vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	4	2
vii)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	-	-
viii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	2	23
ix)	Committee on Petitions	3	4
x)	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	-	-
xi)	Committee of Privileges	3	-
xii)	Committee on Public Accounts	7	12
xiii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	9	-
xiv)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	7	3
xv)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	4	1
xvi)	General Purposes Committee	2	-
xvii)	House Committee (a) Accommodation Sub-Committee (b) Sub-Committee on Amenities	3	-
xviii)	Library Committee	1	-
xix)	Railway Convention Committee	-	-
xx)	Rules Committee	-	-

JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEE

1	2		
i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	-	-
ii)	Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament	3	-

DEPARTMENTALLY RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES

i)	Committee on Agriculture	8	5
ii)	Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers	4	4
iii)	Committee on Coal & Steel	5	3
iv)	Committee on Defence	6	8
v)	Committee on Energy	6	3
vi)	Committee on External Affairs	10	2
vii)	Committee on Finance	8	6
viii)	Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	4	2
ix)	Committee on Information Technology	9	8
x)	Committee on Labour	11	4
xi)	Committee on Petroleum & Natural Gas	4	1
xii)	Committee on Railways	4	1
xiii)	Committee on Rural Development	6	3
xiv)	Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment	8	4
xv)	Committee on Urban Development	4	1
xvi)	Committee on Water Resources	5	3

APPENDIX II

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY FIRST SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION		31.1.2020 to 11.2.2020 & 2.3.2020 to 23.3.2020
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD		23
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS		91 Hours and 19 Minutes
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD		01
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS		
	(i)	Pending at the commencement of the Session	32
	(ii)	Introduced	01
	(iii)	Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	14
	(iv)	Returned by Lok Sabha with any amendment	01
	(v)	Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vi)	Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vii)	Referred to the Department-related Standing Committees	Nil
	(viii)	Reported by Select Committee	01
	(ix)	Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
	(x)	Reported by the Department-related Standing Committees	04
	(xi)	Discussed	07
	(xii)	Passed	06*
	(xiii)	Withdrawn	02
	(xiv)	Negatived	Nil
	(xv)	Part-discussed	Nil
	(xvi)	Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any Recommendation	08
	(xvii)	Discussion postponed	Nil

* Out of six Bills, amendments made by Lok Sabha to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2019, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, were agreed to by the Rajya Sabha.

(xviii)	Pending at the end of the Session	32

6. PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS

(i)	Pending at the commencement of the Session	200
(ii)	Introduced	17
(iii)	Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	Nil
(iv)	Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table	Nil
(v)	Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
(vi)	Discussed	02
(vii)	Withdrawn	02
(viii)	Passed	Nil
(ix)	Negatived	Nil
(x)	Circulated for eliciting opinion	Nil
(xi)	Part-discussed	Nil
(xii)	Discussion postponed/adjourned/deferred/ terminated	Nil
(xiii)	Motion for circulation of Bill negatived	Nil
(xiv)	Referred to Select Committee	Nil
(xv)	Lapsed due to retirement/death of Member-in-charge of the Bill	120
(xvi)	Pending at the end of the Session	95

7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176
(Matters of urgent public importance)

(i)	Notices received	10
(ii)	Admitted	01
(iii)	Discussions held	01

8. NUMBER OF STATEMENT MADE UNDER RULE 180
(Calling attention to matters of urgent public importance)

(i)	Statement made by Ministers	Nil
(ii)	Half-an-hour discussions held	Nil

9. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS

(i)	Notices received	04
(ii)	Admitted	04

	(iii)	Moved	02
	(iv)	Adopted	Nil
	(v)	Negatived	02
	(vi)	Withdrawn	Nil
10.	GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS		
	(i)	Notices received	Nil
	(ii)	Admitted	Nil
	(iii)	Moved	Nil
	(iv)	Adopted	Nil
11.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION		
	(i)	Received	10
	(ii)	Admitted	10
	(iii)	Discussed	Nil
	(iv)	Withdrawn	Nil
	(vi)	Negatived	Nil
	(vii)	Adopted	Nil
	(vii)	Part-discussed	01
	(viii)	Discussion Postponed	Nil
12.	GOVERNMENT MOTIONS		
	(i)	Notices received	Nil
	(ii)	Admitted	Nil
	(iii)	Moved & discussed	Nil
	(iv)	Adopted	Nil
	(v)	Part-discussed	Nil
13.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS		
	(i)	Received	02
	(ii)	Admitted	01
	(iii)	Moved	Nil
	(iv)	Adopted	Nil
	(v)	Part-discussed	Nil
	(vi)	Negatived	Nil
	(vii)	Withdrawn	Nil

14.	MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE		
	(i)	Received	01
	(ii)	Admitted	01
	(iii)	Moved	Nil
	(iv)	Adopted	Nil
	(v)	Negatived	Nil
	(vi)	Withdrawn	Nil
	(vii)	Part-discussed	Nil
	(viii)	Lapsed	01
15.	NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY.		Nil
16.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED		1366
17.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS		2835
18.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED		185 on 5.2.2020
19.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE		363 on 11.2.2020
20.	TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED		
	(i)	Starred	315
	(ii)	Unstarred	3360
	(iii)	Short-Notice Questions	Nil
21.	DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES		
	(i)	Ministry of Railways;	
	(ii)	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises;	
	(iii)	Ministry of Law and Justice (inconclusive)	

22. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

	Name of Committee	No. of Meetings held between 1st January to 31st March 2020	No. of Reports presented during 251st Session of the Rajya Sabha
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	3	Nil
(ii)	Committee of Privileges	1	Nil
(iii)	Committee on Ethics	Nil	Nil
(iv)	Committee on Government Assurances	02	Nil

(v)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	1	Nil
(vi)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	3	1
(vii)	Committee on Petitions	1	Nil
(viii)	Committee on Provision of Computer Equipment to Members of Rajya Sabha	Nil	Nil
(ix)	Committee on Rules	Nil	Nil
(x)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	4	Nil
(xi)	General Purposes Committee	Nil	Nil
(xii)	House Committee	01	Nil

DEPARTMENT RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES

(i)	Commerce	05	02
(ii)	Health and Family Welfare	06	04
(iii)	Home Affairs	04	03
(iv)	Human Resource Development	08	Nil
(v)	Industry	03	03
(vi)	Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice	06	02
(vii)	Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	04	07
(viii)	Transport, Tourism and Culture	06	05

23. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE — 07

24. PETITIONS PRESENTED — Nil

25. NAMES OF NEW MEMBER SWORN IN

Sl. No.	Name of Members Sworn	Party Affiliation	Date on which Sworn
1.	Shri Ranjan Gogoi	Nominated	19.3.2020
2.	Shri Dushyant Gautam	BJP	23.03.2020

26. OBITUARY REFERENCES

Sl. No.	Name	Date of Obituary	Sitting Member/Ex-Member
1.	Shri Indramoni Bora		ex-Member
2.	Shri D.P. Tripathi		ex-Member
3.	Shri T.N. Chaturvedi		ex-Member
4.	Shri Maurice Kujur		ex-Member
5.	Shri S.S. Surjewala		ex-Member
6.	Shri Melhupra Vero		ex-Member

7.	His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said Al Said	Sultan of Oman
8.	Shri A.V. Swamy	ex-Member
9.	Shri Bhadreswar Buragohain	ex-Member
10.	Dr. Ranbir Singh	ex-Member
11.	Shri Hans Raj Bhardwaj	ex-Member
12.	Shri Puttappa Patil	ex-Member
13.	Shri M. Maddanna	ex-Member

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2020

Legislatures	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills [Introduced (passed)]	Private Bills [Introduced (passed)]	Starred Questions [Received (admitted)]	Unstarred Questions [Received (admitted)]	Short Notice Questions [Received (admitted)]
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bihar L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bihar L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh L.A.	24.2.2020 to 26.3.2020	12	16(16)	-	1767(1396)	1578(1293)	-
Goa L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gujarat L.A.	10.1.2020 to 23.3.2020	20	3(3)	1	10177(5407)	247(179)	4
Haryana L.A.	20.1.2020 to 20.1.2020 & 20.2.2020 to 4.3.2020	10	16	-	555 (456)	102 (89)	-
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jharkhand L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka L.A.	17.2.2020 to 24.3.2020	21	26(25)	-	210(210)	2593(2593)	-
Karnataka L.C.	17.2.2020 to 20.2.2020 & 2.3.2020 to 24.3.2020	21	16(16)	-	1578 (315)	1924(1920)	-
Kerala L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

Maharashtra L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maharashtra L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manipur L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meghalaya L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mizoram L.A.	17.2.2020 to 4.3.2020	12	6(6)	-	439(421)	249(230)	-
Nagaland L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Odisha L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Punjab L.A.	16.1.2020 to 17.1.2020 & 20.2.2020 to 4.3.2020	10	3(3)	7(7)	747(454)	153(110)	1(1)
Rajasthan L.A.	24.1.2020 to 24.3.2020	24	17(12)	-	3692(3355)	4139(3777)	1
Sikkim L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Telangana L.A.	6.3.2020 to 16.3.2020	8	6(6)	-	220(142)	(23)	1
Telangana L.C.	6.3.2020 to 16.3.2020	7	(6)	-	175(101)	3	3
Tripura L.A.	17.1.2020 to 20.1.2020	2	1(1)	-	163(109)	33(60)	-
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	13.2.2020 to 28.2.2020	10	11(11)	-	1071(485)	1106(943)	142(23)
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	13.2.2020 to 28.2.2020	10	10(10)	-	578(549)	251(219)	87(6)
Uttarakhand L.A.	3.3.2020 to 25.3.2020	6	9(9)	-	(252)	(425)	(7)
West Bengal L.A.	7.2.2020 to 17.3.2020	11	5(5)	-	399(253)	25(15)	-
UNION TERRITORIES							
Delhi L.A.	24.2.2020 to 26.2.2020, 13.3.2020 to 13.3.2020 & 23.3.2020 to 23.3.2020	5	2(2)	-	-	-	-
Puducherry L.A.	12.2.2020 to 12.2.2020 & 30.3.2020 to 30.3.2020	2	3(3)	-	-	-	-

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

APPENDIX III (Contd.)

COMMITTEES AT WORK/ NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2020

	Business Advisory Committee	Committee on Government Assurances	Committee on Petitions	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	Committee of Privileges	Committee on Public Undertakings	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs	Committee on Estimates	General Purposes Committee	House/Accommodation Committee	Library Committee	Public Accounts Committee	Rules Committee	Joint/Select Committee	Other Committees
State/ Union Territory	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**
Andhra Pradesh L.A**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bihar L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bihar L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh L.A.	4(4)	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2[(a)]
Goa L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gujarat L.A.	2(2)	-	-	5(4)	-	2	1	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	3(2)[(b)]
Haryana L.A.	2(2)	6(1)	8	-	-	10(1)	12	9(1)	8	-	2	-	9(1)	-	-	23(2)[(c)]
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jharkhand L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka L.A.**	3	6(2)	7(1)	-	5	5	5(1)	6	7(1)	-	6	3	6(2)	-	-	23(6)[(d)]
Karnataka L.C.**	3	7	4(1)	3(1)	7(1)	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Kerala L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

State/ Union Territory	Business Advisory Committee	Committee on Government Assurances	Committee on Petitions	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	Committee of Privileges	Committee on Public Undertakings	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs	Committee on Estimates	General Purposes Committee	House/Accommodation Committee	Library Committee	Public Accounts Committee	Rules Committee	Joint/Select Committee	Other Committees
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Maharashtra L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maharashtra L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manipur L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meghalaya L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mizoram L.A.	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4(1)	-	-	3[e]
Nagaland L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Odisha L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Punjab L.A.	2(2)	9(1)	12	-	7(1)	10(1)	6(1)	7(1)	12(1)	-	1	10	8(5)	-	-	21(1)[f]
Rajasthan L.A.	6(6)	2	7(1)	-	9	4(9)	7(1)	-	8(3)	-	-	3	9(42)	-	-	18(9)[g]
Sikkim L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Telangana L.A.	1(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Telangana L.C.	1(1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tripura L.A.	3(3)	2	(1)	-	-	1	-	2(1)	1(1)	-	2	-	3	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	4(4)	2(1)	-	-	-	8	-	1	4	-	-	-	11(5)	-	-	4[h]
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	3	2	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	58[i]
Uttarakhand L.A.	5	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2[j]
West Bengal L.A.	4(4)	10	9(1)	-	5	10	10	-	10	-	11	5	8	-	-	294(19)[k]
UNION TERRITORIES																
Delhi L.A.*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puducherry L.A.	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	5	-	-	-

* Information received from the State/Union Territory Legislature contained Nil Report

(a) Women & Children Welfare Committee-1 and Local Body and Panchayati Raj Accounts Committee-1

(b) Panchayati Raj Committee-1, Welfare of Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Committee-1 and Absence of Members Committee-1(2)

(c) Subject Committee on Public Health, Irrigation, Power and Public Works-9(1) and Subject Committee on Education, Technical Education, Vocational Education, Medical Education and Health Services-14(1)

(d) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-6(1), Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-5(1), Committee on Backward Classes and Minorities-5(1) and Committee on Local Bodies and Panchayat Raj-7(3)

(e) Subject Committee-I-2 and Subject Committee-III-1

(f) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table of the House-4, Committee on Questions & References-7(1), Committee on Local Bodies & Panchayati Raj Institutions-7(2), Sub-committee of PAC-5 and Committee of the House regarding Shri Dashmash Link Canal-3

(g) Committee on Welfare of Women & Child-3(2), Question & Reference Committee-4(5), Committee on Welfare of Minorities-3(1), Committee on Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions-1(1), Committee on Environment-4 and Committee on Ethics-3

(h) Committee Relating to Examination of Audit Reports of the Local Bodies of the State-3, and Panchayati Raj Committee-1

(i) Committee on Question & Reference-1, Committee on Financial & Administrative Delayed-2, Committee on Rules Revision-2, Committee on Parliamentary Study-2, Committee on Enquiry of Housing Complaints of U.P. Legislature-1, Parliamentary & Social Welfare Committee-11, Committee on Control of Irregularities in Development Authorities, Housing Board, Jila Panchayats & Municipal Corporation-5, Committee on Enquiry of Provincial Electricity Arrangement-1, Committee on Regulation Review-12, Divine Disaster Management Investigation Committee-6,Committee on Commercialization of Education-2, Legislative Empowerment Committee-4, and Committee on prevention of health problems of life due to the adulteration of food items and the practice of counterfeit drugs-9

(j) Committee on Information Technology-2

(k) Committee on Bidhayak Elaka Unnayan Prakalpa-10, Committee of Local Fund Accounts-8,Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-10, Committee on Reforms and Functioning of the Committee System-10, Standing Committee on Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing and Food Processing Industries & Horticulture-9(3), Standing Committee on Industry, Commerce and Enterprises-7(3), Standing Committee on Fisheries and Animal Resources Development- 11(1), Standing Committee on Higher Education-7(1), Standing Committee on School Education-11(1),Standing Committee on Environment, Forests and Tourism-10, Standing Committee on Finance and Planning-9, Standing Committee on Food & Supplies-9(1), Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare-9, Standing Committee on Home, Personnel &

Administrative Reforms, Correctional Administration, Law and Judicial-9, Standing Committee on Housing, Fire & Emergency Services & Disaster Management-9, Standing Committee on Information & Cultural Affairs and Youth Services and Sports-10(1), Standing Committee on Irrigation & Waterways and Water Resources Investigation & Development-10(1), Standing Committee on Labour-8, Standing Committee on Urban Development and Municipal Affairs -10(1), Standing Committee on Panchayats & Rural Development and Sundarban Affairs-10(1), Standing Committee on Power & Non-Conventional Energy Sources-10(1), Standing Committee on Public Works and Public Health Engineering-10(2), Standing Committee on Information Technology and Technical Education-11(1), Standing Committee on Self Help Group and Self Employment-10, Standing Committee on Women & Child Development and Social Welfare-10, Standing Committee on Transport-10(1), Standing Committee on Backward Classes Welfare-11, Standing Committee on Minority Affairs-8, Standing Committee on Land and Land Reforms-10, and Standing Committee on Co-operation & Consumer Affairs-8(2)

APPENDIX - IV

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2020

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of Assent by the President
1.	The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2020	13.3.2020
2.	The Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020	13.3.2020
3.	The Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Bill, 2020	17.3.2020
4.	The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2020	19.3.2020
5.	The Central Sanskrit Universities Bill, 2020	25.3.2020
6.	The Appropriation Bill, 2020	25.3.2020
7.	The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2020	25.3.2020
8.	The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2020	25.3.2020
9.	The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2020	25.3.2020
10.	The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2020	25.3.2020
11.	The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2020	25.3.2020
12.	The Finance Bill, 2020	27.3.2020

APPENDIX-V

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2020

CHHATTISGARH

1. *Chhattisgarh Viniyog (Sankhya-1) Vidheyak, 2020*
2. *Chhattisgarh Plastic aur anya Jaiv Anashit Samagri (upyog aur nistaran ka viniyaman) Vidheyak, 2020*
3. *Chhattisgarh Viniyog (Sankhya-2) Vidheyak, 2020*
4. *Chhattisgarh Sthaniya Nidhia Sanpariksha (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2020*
5. *Chhattisgarh Aabkari (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2020*
6. *Chhattisgarh Zila Yajna Samiti (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2020*
7. *Chhattisgarh Krishi Upaj Mandi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2020*
8. *Mahatma Gandhi Udyaniki Evam Vaniki Vishwavidyalaya Vidheyak, 2020*
9. *Chhattisgarh Kamdhenu Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan)Vidheyak, 2020*
10. *Chhattisgarh Sahakari Society (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2020*
11. *Chhattisgarh Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2020*
12. *Pandit Sundar Lal Sharma (Mukt) Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2020*
13. *Chhattisgarh Kushabhau Tahkre Patrakarita evam Jansanchar Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2020*
14. *Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2020*
15. *Chhattisgarh Niji Vishwavidyalaya (Sthapana evam Sanchalan) (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2020*
16. *Chhattisgarh Maal aur Sewakar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2020*

DELHI

1. The Delhi Appropriation (No.I) Bill, 2020
2. The Delhi Appropriation (No.II) Bill, 2020

GUJARAT

1. The Gujarat Appropriation Bill, 2020
2. The Gujarat Electricity Duty (Amendment) Bill, 2020
3. The Gujarat (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2020

HARYANA

1. The Haryana Private Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2020
2. The Haryana State Higher Education Council (Amendment) Bill, 2020
3. The Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas (Amendment) Bill, 2020
4. The Haryana Appropriation (No.I) Bill, 2020
5. The Haryana Agricultural Produce Markets (Amendment) Bill, 2020
6. The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2020
7. The Haryana State Council for Physiotherapy Bill, 2020
8. The Haryana Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2020
9. The Haryana Group D Employees (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2020
10. The Indian Stamp (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2020
11. The Haryana Official Language (Amendment) Bill, 2020
12. The Punjab Excise (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2020
13. The Haryana Scheduled Castes (Reservation in Admission in Government Educational Institutions) Bill, 2020
14. The Haryana Pond and Waste Water Management Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2020
15. The Haryana Consolidation of Project Land (Special Provisions) Amendment Bill, 2020
16. The Haryana Appropriation (No.II) Bill, 2020

KARNATAKA

1. The Karnataka State Civil Services (Regulation of Transfer of Teachers) Bill, 2020
2. The Karnataka Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2020
3. The Karnataka Regulation of Pay and Pension of Teacher in Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2020
4. The Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (Amendment) Bill, 2020
5. The Karnataka Innovation Authority Bill, 2020
6. The National Law School of India (Amendment) Bill, 2020
7. The Karnataka Official Language (Amendment) Bill, 2020
8. The Karnataka State Law University (Amendment) Bill, 2020
9. The Karnataka Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2020
10. The Karnataka Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2020
11. The Karnataka Municipalities and Certain other Law (Amendment) Bill, 2020
12. The Karnataka Open Places (Prevention of Disfigurement) (Amendment) Bill, 2020

13. The Karnataka State Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2020
14. The Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 2020
15. The Karnataka Appropriation (No.II) Bill, 2020
16. The Karnataka Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2020
17. The Industrial Disputes (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2020
18. The Karnataka Shops and Commercial Establishments (Amendment) Bill, 2020
19. The Karnataka Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Bill, 2020
20. The Karnataka Race Courses Licensing (Amendment) Bill, 2020
21. The Sarvajna Kshetra Development Authority Bill, 2020
22. The Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2020
23. The Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation and Development) (Amendment) Bill, 2020
24. The Karnataka Repealing of Certain Enactments and Regional Laws Bill, 2020
25. The Karnataka Regulation of Stone Crushers (Amendment) Bill, 2020

MIZORAM

1. The Mizoram Appropriation (Supplementary Demand for Grants, 2019-2020) Bill, 2020
2. The Mizoram Appropriation (Demand for Grants, 2020-2021) Bill 2020
3. The Mizoram Goods and Service Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 2020
4. The Mizoram Land Revenue (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020
5. The Mizoram Slaughter (Amendment) Bill, 2020
6. The Mizoram (Registration of Tourist Trade) Bill, 2020

PUNJAB

1. The Punjab Right to Business Bill, 2020
2. The Punjab Water Resources (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2020
3. The Punjab Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2020
4. The Punjab Private Health Science Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission, Fixation of Fee and Making of Reservation) Amendment Bill, 2020
5. The Punjab Appropriation Bill, 2020
6. The Punjab Appropriation (No.II) Bill, 2020
7. The Punjab Prisons Development Board Bill, 2020
8. The Punjab Management and Transfer of Municipal Properties Bill, 2020
9. The Punjab Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, 2020
10. The Punjab Slum Dwellers (Proprietary Rights) Bill, 2020

RAJASTHAN

1. Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishanan Rajasthan Ayurved University, Jodhpur (Amendment) Bill, 2020
2. The Rajasthan Agricultural Produce Market (Amendment) Bill, 2020
3. The Rajasthan Jan Aadhaar Authority Bill, 2020
4. The Rajasthan Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2020
5. The Rajasthan Appropriation (No.I) Bill, 2020
6. The Rajasthan Appropriation (No.II) Bill, 2020
7. The Rajasthan Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2020
8. The Rajasthan Advocate Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2020
9. The Rajasthan Finance Bill, 2020
10. The Rajasthan Housing Board (Amendment) Bill, 2020
11. The Rajasthan Court Fees and Cases Assessment (Amendment) Bill, 2020
12. The Rajasthan Municipal Reform (Amendment) Bill, 2020

TELANGANA

1. The Telangana Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2020
2. The Telangana Payment of Salaries and Pension and Removal of Disqualifications (Amendment) Bill, 2020
3. The Telangana Lokayukta (Amendment) Bill, 2020
4. The Telangana Self Help Groups (SHG) Women Co-contributory Pension (Repeal) Bill, 2020
5. The Telangana Appropriation Bill, 2020
6. The Telangana Appropriation (No.II) Bill, 2020

TRIPURA

1. The Tripura State Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020

UTTAR PRADESH

1. The Uttar Pradesh Jagat Guru Ram Bhadracharya Handicapped University (Amendment) Bill, 2020
2. The Uttar Pradesh Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2020
3. The Uttar Pradesh Public Services (Reservation for Economically Weaker Section) Bill, 2020
4. The Allotment of Houses under Control of the Estate Department (Amendment) Bill, 2020
5. The Uttar Pradesh *Krishi Utpadan* (Amendment) Bill, 2020
6. The Trade Unions (Uttar Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2020

7. The Uttar Pradesh State Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2020
8. The State Ayush University Uttar Pradesh Bill, 2020
9. The Uttar Pradesh Fundamental Rule 56 (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2020
10. The Uttar Pradesh Police and Forensic Science University Bill, 2020
11. The Uttar Pradesh Appropriation Bill, 2020

UTTARAKHAND

1. The Uttarakhand Appropriation Bill, 2020
2. The Uttarakhand (United Provinces Excise Act 1910) (Amendment) Bill, 2020
3. The Uttarakhand (Uttar Pradesh Municipal Corporation Act, 1959) (Amendment) Bill, 2020
4. The Uttarakhand Witness Protection Bill, 2020
5. The Uttarakhand Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2020
6. The Graphic Era Hill University (Amendment) Bill, 2020
7. The Uttarakhand Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2020
8. Soban Singh Jeena University Bill, 2019
9. The Contract Labor (Regulation and Abolition) (Uttarakhand Amendment) Bill, 2019
10. The Uttarakhand (Uttar Pradesh Municipality Act, 1916) (Amendment) Bill, 2020

WEST BENGAL

1. The West Bengal Appropriation (No.I) Bill, 2020
2. The West Bengal Finance Bill, 2020
3. The West Bengal Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2020
4. The West Bengal Appropriation (No.II) Bill, 2020
5. The West Bengal Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, 2020

APPENDIX-VI

ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 MARCH 2020

Sl. No.	Title of Ordinance	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of Cessation	Remarks

UNION GOVERNMENT

1.	The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019	28.12.2019	31.1.2020	--	Replaced by an Act of Parliament
2.	The Mineral Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020	10.1.2020	31.1.2020	--	Replaced by an Act of Parliament

CHHATTISGARH

1.	*Chhattisgarh Sahakari Society (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2020*	-	-	-	-

KARNATAKA

1.	The Karnataka Regulation of Pay and Pension of Teacher in Higher Educational Institutions Ordinance, 2020	-	-	-	-
2.	The Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020	-	-	-	-

3.	The Karnataka Regulation of Stone Crushers (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020	-	-	-	-

PUNJAB

1.	The Punjab Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019	31.12.2019	17.1.2020	--	Replaced by Legislation on 17.1.2020

TELANGANA

1.	The Payment of Salaries and Pension and Removal of Disqualifications (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019	4.12.2019	7.3.2020	--	--
2.	The Lokayukta (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019	12.12.2019	7.3.2020	--	--

UTTAR PRADESH

1.	The Uttar Pradesh Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020	27.1.2020	13.2.2020	--	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Uttar Pradesh Recovery of Damages to Public and Private Property Ordinance, 2020	14.3.2020	--	--	--
3.	The Uttar Pradesh Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020	31.3.2020	--	--	--

Appendix VII-A. PARTY POSITION IN 17TH LOK SABHA (STATE-WISE) (AS ON 31.03.2020)

Sl. No.	States	No. of Seats	BJP	INC	AIADMK	AITC	BJD	SS	TDP	TRS	CPI(M)	YSRCP	LJSP	NCP	SP	AAP	RJD	SAD	AIUDF	RLSP	AD
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	14	9	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	Bihar	40	17	1	-	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	11	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Goa	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Gujarat	26	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Haryana	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
11.	Jharkhand	14	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Karnataka	28	25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13.	Kerala	20	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	29	28	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Maharashtra	48	23	1	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
16.	Manipur	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Meghalaya	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
18.	Mizoram	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19.	Nagaland	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Odisha	21	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21.	Punjab	13	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Rajasthan	25	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23.	Sikkim	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	39	-	8	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
25.	Telangana	17	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
26.	Tripura	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27.	Uttarakhand	80	62	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	2	-
28.	Uttar Pradesh	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29.	West Bengal	42	18	2	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Union Territories																					
30.	A & N Islands	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.	Chandigarh	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33.	Daman & Diu	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34.	NCT of Delhi	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35.	Lakshadweep	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36.	Puducherry	543	303*	52	24	22	22	18	15	12	10	9	6	5	5	3	3	3	3	2	2
	TOTAL	25	-	-	-	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-

* including Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

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Sl. No.	States	INLD	IUML	JD(S)	JD(U)	JMM	AIMEIM	AINRC	CPI	JKNC	JKPDP	NDPP	PMK	RLD	RSP	SDF	Sw.P	IND	Total	Vacan-cies
(1)	(2)	(23)	(24)	(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30)	(31)	(32)	(33)	(34)	(35)	(36)	(37)	(38)	(39)	(40)	(41)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Assam	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
4.	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6.	Goa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Gujarat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Karnataka	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
13.	Kerala	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
14.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15.	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
16.	Manipur	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
17.	Meghalaya	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
18.	Mizoram	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
19.	Nagaland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
20.	Odisha	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
21.	Punjab	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Rajasthan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
23.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	Telangana	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
26.	Tripura	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
27.	Uttarakhand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
28.	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
29.	West Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Union Territories																				
30.	A & N Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
33.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34.	NCT of Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36.	Puducherry	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	-
	TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

ABBREVIATIONS USED FOR PARTIES:

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP); Indian National Congress (INC); All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK); All India Trinamool Congress (AITC); Biju Janata Dal (BJD); Shiv Sena (SS); Telugu Desam Party (TDP); Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS); Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)]; Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP); Lok Jan Shakti Party (LJSP); Nationalist Congress Party (NCP); Samajwadi Party (SP); Aam Admi Party (AAP); Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD); Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD); All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF); Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC); Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP); Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP); Apna Dal (AD); Indian National Lok Dal (INLD); Indian Union Muslim League (IUML); Janata Dal (Secular) [JD(S)]; Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)]; Jharkhand Mukhti Morcha (JMM); All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMEIM); All India N.R. Congress (AINRC); Communist Party of India (CPI); Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP); Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK); Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD); Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP); Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF); Swabhimani Paksha (Sw.P) & Independents (IND)

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA (AS ON 18 AUGUST 2020)														
Sl. No.	**State/ Union**	**Seats**	**INC**	**BJP**	**SP**	**CPI(M)**	**JD(U)**	**AIADMK**	**BSP**	**CPI**	***Others**	**IND.**	**Total**	**Vacancies**
	Territory													
	[2]	**[3]**	**[4]**	**[5]**	**[6]**	**[7]**	**[8]**	**[9]**	**[10]**	**[11]**	**[12]**	**[13]**	**[14]**	**[15]**
1	Andhra Pradesh	11	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	7[(a)]	-	11	-
2	ArunachalPradesh	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
3	Assam	7	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2[(b)]	1	7	-
4	Bihar	16	1	3	-	-	5	-	-	-	6[(c)]	-	15	1
5	Chhattisgarh	5	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
6	Goa	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
7	Gujarat	11	4	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
8	Haryana	5	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-
9	Himachal Pradesh	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
10	Jharkhand	6	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1[(d)]	-	6	-
11	Karnataka	12	6	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	1[(e)]	-	12	-
12	Kerala	9	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	2[(f)]	-	8	1
13	Madhya Pradesh	11	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-
14	Maharashtra	19	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	8[(g)]	-	19	-

15	Manipur	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
16	Meghalaya	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1[h]	-	1	-
17	Mizoram	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1[i]	-	1	-
18	Nagaland	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1[j]	-	1	-
19	Odisha	10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	9[k]	-	10	-
20	Punjab	7	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3[l]	-	7	-
21	Rajasthan	10	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-
22	Sikkim	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1[m]	-	1	-
23	Tamil Nadu	18	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	10[n]	-	18	-
24	Telangana	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7[o]	-	7	-
25	Tripura	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
26	Uttarakhand	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
27	Uttar Pradesh	31	2	16	8	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	30	1
28	West Bengal	16	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	13[p]	-	16	-
Union Territories														
29	The NCT of Delhi	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3[q]	-	3	-
30	Jammu & Kashmir	4	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2[r]	-	4	-
31	Puducherry	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
32	Nominated	12	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	12	-

	TOTAL	245	40	86	8	5	5	9	4	1	78	6	242	3

Others
(Break-up of Parties/Groups)

(a) TDP-1, YSRCP-6
(b) AGP-1, BPF-1
(c) RJD-5, LJP-1
(d) JMM-1
(e) JD(S)-1
(f) KC(M)-1, IUML-1
(g) NCP-4, SS-3, RPI(A)-1
(h) NPP-1
(i) MNF-1
(j) NPF-1
(k) BJD-9
(l) SAD-3
(m) SDF-1
(n) DMK-7, MDMK-1, PMK-1, TMC(M)-1
(o) TRS-7
(p) AITC-13
(q) AAP-3
(r) PDP-2

Appendix VII-C. PARTY POSITION IN THE STATE/ UNION TERRITORY LEGISLATURES

State/Union Territory	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Independent	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Andhra Pradesh L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Assam L.A. **	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bihar L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bihar L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh L.A.#	91	69	14	-	-	-	2	-	-	5[(a)]	-	90	
Goa L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gujarat L.A.	182	68	103	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	175	7
Haryana L.A.	90	31	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	13[(b)]	7	90	-
Himachal Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

** Information not received from State/Union Territory Legislature

Information as received from State/Union Territory Legislature

State/Union Territory	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Independent	Total	Vacancies
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jharkhand L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Karnataka L.A.	225	68	116	-	-	-	1	-	34	2[(c)]	2	223	2
Karnataka L.C.	75	37	19	-	-	-	-	-	16	1[(d)]	2	75	-
Kerala L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Madhya Pradesh L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maharashtra L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maharashtra L.C.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manipur L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meghalaya L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

State/Union Territory	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Independent	Total	Vacancies
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**
Mizoram L.A.	40	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	27[e]	7	40	-
Nagaland L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Odisha L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Punjab L.A.	117	80	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	35[f]	-	117	-
Rajasthan L.A.	200	107	72	2	-	-	-	-	-	6[g]	13	200	-
Sikkim L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Telangana L.A.	120	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	112[h]	1	120	-
Telangana L.C.	40	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	33[i]	3	38	2
Tripura L.A.	60	-	36	16	-	-	-	-	-	8[j]	-	60	-
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	404	7	307	-	-	-	18	-	-	65[k]	3	400	4
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	100	2	21	-	-	-	8	-	-	67[l]	1	99	1
Uttarakhand L.A.	71	11	57	-	-	-	-	-	-	1[m]	2	71	-

State/Union Territory	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Independent	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
West Bengal L.A.	295	39	6	25	1	-	-	-	-	222[n]	1	294	1
UNION TERRITORIES													
Delhi L.A.	70	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	62[o]	-	70	-
Puducherry L.A.	33	15	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	14[p]	1	33	-

a) Janta Congress Chhattisgarh-5
b) Bharatiya Tribal Party-2
c) Speaker-1, Jannayak Janta Party-10, Haryana Lokhit Party-1 and Indian National Lok Dal-1
d) Chairman-1
e) Mizo National Front-27
f) Aam Aadmi Party-19, Shiromani Akali Dal-14 and Lok Insaaf Party-2
g) Rashtriya Loktantrik Party-3, Bharatiya Tribal Party-2 and Rashtriya Lok Dal-1
h) Telangana Rashtra Samithi-101, All India Majlis e Ittehadul Muslimeen-7, Telugu Desam Party-2, All India Forward Block-1 and Nominated-1
i) Telangana Rashtra Samithi-26, All India Majlis e Ittehadul Muslimeen-2 and Nominated-5
j) I.P.F.T-8
k) Samajwadi Party-49, Apna Dal (S)-9, Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party-4, Rashtriya Lok Dal-1, Nirbal Indian Shoshit Humara Aam Dal-1 and Nominated-1
l) Samajwadi Party-55, Apna Dal (Sonelal) Party-1, Shikshak Dal (Non-Political)-5, Independent Group-5 and Unconnected-1
m) Nominated-1
n) All India Trinamool Congress-214, Gorkha Janmukti Morcha-2, Revolutionary Socialist Party-3, All India Forward Bloc-2 and Nominated-1
o) Aam Aadmi Party-62
p) All India N.R. Congress-7, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhgam-4 and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-3