

LOK SABHA

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES (Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Monday, September 14, 2020 / Bhadrapada 23, 1942 (Saka)

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem was played.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

HON'BLE SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, with profound grief, I have to inform the House about the passing away of the former President of India and Bharat Ratna Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

‘Bharat Ratna Shri Pranab Mukherjee, whom we call ‘Pranab Da’ with respect, was one of the greatest leaders of modern times in the country. He became the Member of Upper House only at the age of 34 years, the former President Bharat Ratna Shri Pranab Mukherjee was the worshiper of basic democratic values in real sense. He was a prolific orator, able administrator and a successful politician. His knowledge and experience in regard to Parliamentary tradition and history was unique and exemplary. He had an experience of more than 5 decades of service to the nation while serving on different posts. He was a

popular leader who was known for his intelligence, wisdom and political skill as well as prolific oration. Leaders of every political parties have regards and honour for him. He always give utmost importance to the debates and discussions carried out in the House. During his farewell speech in the Central Hall of Parliament, he revealed that speeches of leaders had shaped his personality and he also named those distinguished leaders. He was of the opinion that “the Constitution of India is not only a legal document but this is equal to MAGNACARTA for social and economic changes of the country”. During his long political life, late Shri Pranab Mukherjee not only assessed political development but also played an active role. Later on, he shared his long experience and vast knowledge with us by his several books. These books are political and economic document of modern India. The idea shared by him about democracy, Constitution and politics will guide us in the times to come. Shri Pranab Mukherjee passed away on 31st August 2020 in New Delhi at the age of 84 years.

Hon’ble Members, I also have to inform the House about the sad demise of our colleague, Shri H. Vasanthakumar, eminent vocalist Pandit Jasraj and 13 former members. Shri H. Vasanthakumar was a sitting member representing Kanniyakumari Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu. Shri H. Vasanthakumar was a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals & Fertilisers. Earlier, he was also a Member of Tamil Nadu Legislative

Assembly for two terms. Shri H. Vasanthakumar passed away on 28 August 2020 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu at the age of 70 years.

Pandit Jasraj was a Legendary classical vocalist and one of the best-known cultural ambassadors of India. Pandit Jasraj devoted his whole life to make *Hindustani Classical* music reach across the world through his voice. For his contribution to *Hindustani Classical* music, Pandit Jasraj was awarded Padma Shree in 1975, Padma Bhushan in 1990 and Padma Vibhushan in 2000 apart from the Sangeet NatakAcademy Award from the Government of India. Pandit Jasraj passed away on 17 August 2020 in New Jersey, USA at the age of 90 years.

Shri Gurdas Singh Badal was a member of the 5th Lok Sabha representing Fazilka Parliamentary Constituency of Punjab. Shri Gurdas Singh Badal was also a Member of Legislative Council of Punjab from 1967 to 1969. Shri Gurdas Singh Badal passed away on 15 May 2020 in Mohali, Punjab at the age of 88 years.

Dr. Nepal Singh was a member of Sixteenth Lok Sabha representing Rampur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. He served as a member of the Rules Committee, Committee on Human Resource Development and Welfare of Other Backward Classes. Earlier, Dr. Nepal Singh was also a member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council for five terms and had served as Minister of Secondary Education and Language in the Government of Uttar Pradesh. He was the Leader of Opposition in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council. Dr. Nepal Singh passed away on 22 May 2020 in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 79 years.

Shri Ajit Jogi was a member of the 12th Lok Sabha representing the Raigarh Parliamentary Constituency of the Madhya Pradesh and 14th Lok Sabha representing Mahasamund Parliamentary Constituency of Chhattisgarh. Shri Ajit Jogi was a Member of Rajya Sabha for two terms and served as member of Panel of Vice-Chairperson, Rajya Sabha. Shri Jogi served as the Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology, and Environment and Forests and was also a member of several Parliamentary Committees. Shri Ajit Jogi was a sitting member of Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly and served as the first Chief Minister of newly created state of Chhattisgarh from 2000 to 2003. He was also a Member of Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly for four terms. Shri Ajit Jogi passed away on 29 May 2020 in Raipur, Chhattisgarh at the age of 74 years.

Shri P. Namgyal was a member of Seventh, Eighth and Eleventh Lok Sabhas representing the Ladakh Parliamentary Constituency of Union Territory of Ladakh. He was Union Deputy Minister of Surface Transport and Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of State of Chemical & Petrochemical and Parliamentary Affairs during Eighth Lok Sabha. He was also a Member of Estimates Committee and the Committee on Government Assurances. Earlier, he was a Member of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council for three terms and also served as acting Chairman of the Council in 2007. Shri P. Namgyal passed away on 01 June 2020 in Leh, Union Territory of Ladakh at the age of 82 years.

Shri Paras Nath Yadav was a member of the 12th and 14th Lok Sabhas representing the Jaunpur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. He was also a member of the Committee on Public Undertakings and Committee on Labour. Shri Yadav was a sitting member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and previously served as a Member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly for five terms. He was also a Minister of Public Enterprises and Additional Energy Service, and Education in Government of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Paras Nath Yadav passed away on 12 June 2020 in Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 71 years.

Shri Madhav Rao Patil was a member of the 12th Lok Sabha representing Nashik Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra. Shri Madhav Rao Patil served as member of the Committee on Commerce. Shri Madhav Rao Patil passed away on 14 June 2020 in Nashik, Maharashtra at the age of 80 years.

Shri Haribhau Madhav Jawale was a member of the 14th and 15th Lok Sabha representing Jalgaon Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra. He was a member of the Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment, Committee on Water Resources and Committee on Railways. Earlier, Shri Jawale was also a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1999 to 2004. Shri Haribhau Madhav Jawale passed away on 16 June 2020 in Mumbai, Maharashtra at the age of 66 years.

Smt. Saroj Dubey was a member of the 10th Lok Sabha representing Allahabad Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh from 1991 to 1996. She

was also a member of Rajya Sabha from 1998 to 2004. Smt. Dubey served as a member of the Committee on Government Assurances, Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests and the Committee on Public Undertakings. Smt. Saroj Dubey passed away on 21 June 2020 in New Delhi at the age of 81 years.

Shri Lalji Tandon was the sitting Governor of Madhya Pradesh and a member of the 15th Lok Sabha. He served as a member of the Committee on Estimates and Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways. Earlier, Shri Lalji Tandon was the Governor of Bihar in 2018. Shri Tandon was a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council for two terms and Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly for three terms. Shri Lalji Tandon served as Minister of State of various departments of the Government of Uttar Pradesh from 1997 to 2003. He was the Leader of the House in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council and Leader of Opposition in Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly. Shri Lalji Tandon passed away on 21 July 2020 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 85 years.

Smt. Kamal Rani was a member of the 11th and 12th Lok Sabha representing Ghatampur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh and was a Minister of Technical Education in the Government of Uttar Pradesh. Smt. Kamal Rani served as a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committees on Labour and Welfare, Industry, Empowerment of Women and Official Language. Smt. Kamal Rani passed away on 02 August 2020 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 62 years.

Shri Chetan Chauhan was a member of the 10th and 12th Lok Sabha representing Amroha Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Chauhan was a member of the Committee on Finance. Shri Chetan Chauhan was a sitting member of Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Minister of Youth and Sports in the Government of Uttar Pradesh. An accomplished cricketer and an Arjuna Awardee, Shri Chetan Chauhan passed away on 16 August 2020 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh at the age of 73 years.

Shri Surendra Prakash Goel was a member of the 14th Lok Sabha representing Hapur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. Shri Surendra Prakash Goel served as a member of the Committees on Urban Development and MPLADS. He also served as a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly. Shri Surendra Prakash Goel passed away on 14 August 2020 in New Delhi at the age of 74 years.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was a member of Eleventh to Fifteenth Lok Sabha representing Vaishali Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar. He was Minister of Rural Development and Minister of State of Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Food and Consumer Affairs (Independent Charge) in the Government of India. A distinguished parliamentarian, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was the Chairperson of the parliamentary committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution and a member of several parliamentary committees. He also served on the Panel of Chairpersons in the Fifteenth Lok Sabha. Earlier, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh

was the member of Bihar Legislative Assembly for four terms from 1977 to 1990 and member of Bihar Legislative Council from 1991 to 1995. He was also the Chairman of Bihar Legislative Council and Deputy Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly. He was the Minister of Power and Energy, Relief, Rehabilitation and Department of Official Languages in the Government of Bihar. Dr.Raghuvansh Prasad Singh passed away on 13 September, 2020 in New Delhi at the age of 74 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of former President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, one of our colleagues, Shri H. Vasanthakumar, eminent vocalist Pandit Jasraj and 13 former members and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

This House also pays tribute to the Armed Forces, all brave soldiers of Para-Military Forces and brave policemen who sacrificed their lives while protecting the unity and integrity of the country.

At the end, the House also pays tribute to all those Doctors, Nurses, Health Workers, Sanitation workers, Policemen and a large number of volunteers who worked as a Corona warriors and sacrificed their lives during performing their duties.

I pay my obeisance to all those virtuous departed souls.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

HON'BLE SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I welcome you all to this monsoon session being held amidst extraordinary circumstances. This is probably for the first time in the history of Parliament that Members of Lok Sabha are sitting in the Rajya Sabha Chamber and the Members of Rajya Sabha in Lok Sabha Chamber. Not only that, arrangements have been made for the Members to sit in the Public Gallery. Although, we always strive to bridge the differences among the Members and bring them closer to each other, however, this time we have made all arrangements to maintain distance. I have been apprised of the inconvenience caused to you in relation to the sitting arrangement in the current session. In this regard, I would only say that the circumstances are extraordinary this time. We have made elaborate security arrangements too. Still, we are making all out efforts with your cooperation to conduct the House smoothly. That is why we have allocated the seats for the leaders of all the parties according to their number. I would like to inform all the hon. Ministers and the Members that the numbers indicated on the seats are according to the social distancing norms. Hope, you will follow them and cooperate. We have developed an App to use digitization in Parliamentary work on which the hon. Members can mark their attendance. They are sending the Notices of Questions and other Notices also on the same while they get online response too. There are many arrangements which have been made for

the first time. All this is due to extraordinary situation. Safety protocol may cause you some inconvenience but this was necessary for our safety.

India is the largest functional democracy in the world. Our Parliament represents 130 crore people. It embodies the hopes and aspirations of the people. We all should send out a message to the people that the entire House is unanimous in ensuring progress, development and protection of the people of India in all possible manners. In recent times, the people of the country have shown amazing unity and organizational powers in the face of circumstances arising out of Corona. The Corona warriors have made outstanding contribution in the efforts to control the infection. Hon. Members have also fulfilled their responsibilities as public servant in their respective Constituencies and extended all possible help and relief to the maximum of deprived and needy people. During this time, a control room was also set up in Parliament through which relief operations were coordinated and it worked as a link between the State Legislative Assemblies, the Parliamentarians and other people's representatives and the common man. I compliment you all for this.

I believe that with the collective efforts of the Central Government and the State Governments, participation of the leaders of all the parties dedicated contribution of Corona warriors and extensive public cooperation, we will be able to overcome the Corona pandemic. Friends, democracy will prosper only when we present our thoughts on the issues of public interest and national interest with a

positive spirit. The Government side and the Opposition provide vibrancy to our democracy. I believe that during this session, the Government side and the Opposition will continue to discuss the issues related to the general public to achieve the ultimate goal of social interest and national interest. This time we have very little time and as such we are duty-bound to make brief and meaningful submissions in the House. It is our responsibility to strengthen and enrich the spirit of democracy and to work with this resolve. Today is also celebrated as Hindi Diwas across the country. On this occasion, I hope the entire House would join me in extending the greetings to the entire nation. I wish that we all strive for advancement of all the Indian languages in our diverse country. In the end, I welcome you all again and expect your cooperation in conduct of proceedings of the House as before. I am sure that together we will fulfill our objective and Constitutional obligation in these difficult circumstances and carry the pleasant memories of this session. Hope, we will be able to send out a message to the people that the hon. Members worked in the interest of the nation in these difficult times. Hon. Members, although, it is very difficult for some Members, yet on the basis of advice of several experts, we have decided to allow the hon. Members to speak only while sitting in view of this Covid-19. Although, many hon. Members find it very inconvenient but we have no choice.

The next point is that we have allotted the seats to the Members on the basis of their party's strength. The leaders of the parties will ensure the seating

arrangement for their Members according to requirement. We have not been able to allot the seats by name because we want the Members to speak from appropriate place. I solicit cooperation from the leaders of all the parties.

Hon. Members, as you are aware, seating arrangement for some Members has been made in Rajya Sabha Chamber to ensure social distancing and the safety of hon. Members. Under Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I direct that during this session, Chamber of the House would include the Rajya Sabha Chamber, Lobbies and the Galleries too for the purpose of proceedings of the Lok Sabha. During this session, some Members of Rajya Sabha would sit in the Lok Sabha Chamber. In this context, I would like to draw your attention towards Rule 384 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha which provides that the Chamber of the House cannot be used for any purpose other than the sittings of the House. Therefore, I suggest that the Rule 384 be relaxed to enable some Members of Rajya Sabha to sit in Lok Sabha Chamber during the proceedings of Rajya Sabha. I think this will also be unprecedented that several hon. Members of Rajya Sabha would be sitting in the Lok Sabha Chamber what they dreamt of. Hope, you all agree to this proposal.

Hon. Members, normally the Speaker used to give the information with regard to days named for Questions and Private Members' Business along with the summons. On the request of the Government and considering the fact that the Lok Sabha would be sitting only for four hours every day, exercising my discretion

under Rule 389 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I had issued directions that no day be named for Questions and Private Members' Business. Later, the days have been allotted for Starred Questions, information of which has been circulated through Bulletin. Hence, I request the hon. Ministers for Parliamentary Affairs to move his motion regarding Starred Questions and Private Members' Business.

MOTION

Re: Business of the House

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI) moved the motion that keeping in view that the current session of Lok Sabha is being held in extraordinary circumstances prevailing due to COVID-19 pandemic requiring maintenance of social distancing and keeping the movement of Government officials and others within the Parliament precincts to the bare minimum, this House resolves that Starred Questions and Private Members' Business may not be brought before the House for transaction during the session, and all relevant Rules on these subjects in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha may stand suspended to that extent.

The motion was adopted

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

HON'BLE SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that I have received a request from the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wherein he has requested that due to prevailing COVID-19 situation, he or the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs be permitted to lay papers, on behalf of all the Ministers, listed in the List of Business for the fourth Session of Seventeenth Lok Sabha under the heading Papers Laid on the Table. I have acceded to his request.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN) I have briefed this august house on two earlier occasions once in February and again in March this year on the Covid Pandemic. I would again like to brief the Hon'ble members on the current situation of Covid-19 Pandemic and the actions taken by the Government of India.

Since my last briefing, WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic and asked all countries to take urgent and aggressive action against this public health crisis.

As on 11thSeptember, 2020, 215 countries/territories worldwide are affected. As per WHO, there are more than 2.79crore confirmed cases across the world with more than 9.05 lakh deaths, with a case fatality rate of 3.2%.

As on 11thSeptember, 2020, a total of 45,62,414 confirmed cases and 76,271 deaths (Case Fatality Rate 1.67%) have been reported in India. As many as 35,42,663 (77.65%) cases have recovered. The maximum cases and deaths have been primarily reported from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, West Bengal, Bihar, Telangana, Odisha, Assam, Kerala & Gujarat. All these States have reported more than one lakh cases. With our endeavor to manage COVID-19 through a whole of government & whole of society approach, India has been able to limit its cases and deaths per million to 3,328 cases per million and 55 deaths per million population respectively, which is one of the lowest in the world as compared to similarly affected countries.

Many of the epidemiological parameters such as mode of transmission, subclinical infection, period of virus shedding, role of immunity etc. are still being researched. Once a person is exposed to the infection, the disease may develop anytime between 1-14 days. The main symptoms of Covid are fever, cough, and difficulty in breathing. In our country about 92% of the cases are reported to be having mild disease. In only about 5.8 % of cases where oxygen therapy is required and the disease may be severe enough to require intensive care in only 1.7% cases.

The increasing magnitude of this outbreak in India called for a pre-emptive, pro-active, graded, whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach, built around a comprehensive strategy to prevent infections, save lives and minimize impact.

The Government of India undertook the COVID-19 challenge with the highest level of political commitment. The nationwide lockdown, a bold decision, undertaken by Government duly involving community, initiated as self-imposed Junta Curfew as per the call given by Hon'ble Prime Minister is testimony to the fact that India has collectively stood up to manage COVID-19 and successfully blunted the aggressive progression of COVID. It has been estimated that this decision prevented approximately 14–29 lakh cases and 37–78 thousand deaths. Further, these four months were utilized to create additional health infrastructure, enhance human resource and produce within India critical elements such as PPEs, N-95 masks and ventilators. A case in point is increase in dedicated isolation beds 36.3 times and dedicated ICU beds above 24.6 times to what existed in March 2020. Whereas there was no indigenous manufacturing of PPE, with the requisite standards, at that point in time, we are now self-sufficient and, in a position, to even export the same. On behalf of our countrymen, I take this opportunity to congratulate our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi, who personally continues to monitor the situation and provided his leadership.

Government of India has initiated a series of actions to prevent entry of the disease and to contain it. I am daily reviewing the situation. Hon'ble Prime

Minister himself has interacted with the Chief Ministers of all States and UT administrations and all stakeholders to regularly understand issues and collaborate with the States for effective Covid management. Group of Ministers under my Chairmanship consisting of Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Civil Aviation and Minister of State for Home Affairs, Minister of State for Shipping and Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare have met 20 times since its inception on 3rd February, 2020. Committee of Secretaries under Cabinet Secretary has taken regular reviews with all related Ministries of Health, Defence, Ministry of External Affairs, Civil Aviation, Home, Textiles, Pharma, Commerce and other officials including with State Chief Secretaries.

Under the overall guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India has constituted 11 Empowered Groups on 29th March 2020 on different aspects of COVID-19 management in the country to take informed decisions on issues ranging from (i) medical emergency planning, (ii) availability of hospitals, isolation and quarantine facility, disease surveillance and testing, (iii) ensuring availability of essential medical equipment, (iv) augmenting human resource and capacity building, (v) supply chain and logistic management, (vi) coordination with private sector, (vii) economic and welfare measures, (viii) information, communications and public awareness, (ix) technology and data management, (x) public grievance and (xi) strategic issues related to lockdown.

These groups have recently been restructured on 10th September based on the need and evolving scenario.

My own Ministry is constantly reviewing the evolving scenario. Video conferences are being held with States regularly. We have held 63 video conferences so far with State Health Ministers, Health functionaries and district level officials. The Joint Monitoring Group (JMG) under the Chairmanship of DGHS which advises MoHFW on technical matters has met 40 times till now to assess the risk, review the preparedness & response mechanisms and finalize technical guidelines.

Government of India, based on its experience of successfully managing pandemics and epidemics in the past, provided the requisite strategy, plans and procedures to the State Governments and UT administrations. This includes containment plans and guidelines on a wide range of subjects related to travel, behavioral& psycho-social health, surveillance, laboratory support, hospital infrastructure, clinical management, rational use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) etc. including inspirational guidance for healthcare personnel.

Government of India has also taken several other measures to contain/suppress the transmission of Covid. First Travel Advisory was issued on 17th January, 2020 and as situation evolved, the travel advisories were revised in a graded manner. Universal screening of passengers from all countries was introduced and up to 23rd March, 2020 (till suspension of all commercial flights), a total of 14,154 flights with 15,24,266 passengers were screened at the airports. In

addition to airports, about 16.31 lakh persons were screened at land border crossings and about 86,379 persons were screened at 12 major, 65 minor sea ports.

Presently Government of India has advised no scheduled international commercial passenger aircraft be allowed to take off from any foreign airport for any airport in India, from March 22, 2020 except under Vande Bharat Mission on May 7th 2020, which aims to bring home stranded Indians in many countries due to Covid-19 pandemic. Temporary air travel arrangements (Transport Bubbles) between India and 9 other mutually consenting countries aimed at restarting commercial passenger services have commenced. They are reciprocal in nature, meaning airlines from both countries enjoy similar benefits. A 'Guidelines for International arrivals' has also been issued by the Ministry on 24th May, 2020, which were revised on 2nd August, 2020.

Prior to the lockdown 1.0, Government of India evacuated Indian nationals from Wuhan in China, Diamond Princess Cruise Ship, Japan, Iran, Italy and Malaysia. Under Vande Bharat Mission, as reported on 11th September, 2020, a total of 12,69,172 passengers have been brought back to India.

Community surveillance was initiated initially for travel related cases and subsequently for cases being reported from community by Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP). As on 11th September 2020, a total of about 40 lakh persons have been kept under surveillance and extensive contact tracing of all

positive cases is regularly being undertaken through disease surveillance network so as to break the chain of transmission.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare released containment plans to contain cluster and large outbreaks on 2nd March and 4th April, 2020 respectively and these plans were updated from time to time. The containment plans envisage a strategy of breaking the chain of transmission by (i) defining containment and buffer zones, (ii) applying strict perimeter control, (iii) intensive active house to house search for cases and contacts, (iv) isolation and testing of suspect cases and high risk contacts, (v) quarantine of high risk contacts, (vi) intensive risk communication to raise community awareness on simple preventive measures and need for prompt treatment seeking and (vii) strengthening of passive Influenza Like Illness (ILI)/ Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI) surveillance in containment and buffer zones.

With the evolving scenario, laboratory network is continuously being strengthened. From a situation of a single laboratory equipped to undertake testing for Covid in January, presently 1705 laboratories are conducting COVID-19 Testing. Laboratories have been established in difficult terrains like Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland as well as other North Eastern states, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar island. Currently the testing is about 1 million tests a day (which translates to 720 tests per million population per day), much higher than that stipulated by WHO which is 140 tests per million population

per day. A total of 5,51,89,226 samples have been tested so far as on 11th September 2020. While there were no indigenous manufacturers of laboratory diagnostics or testing machines for Covid, today we have an indigenous production capacity of more than 10 lakh kits/day.

For appropriate management of COVID-19 cases, a three tier arrangement of health facilities [(i) COVID Care Center with isolation beds for mild or pre-symptomatic cases; (ii) Dedicated COVID Health Centre (DCHC) with oxygen supported isolation beds for moderate cases and (iii) Dedicated COVID Hospital (DCH) with ICU beds for severe cases] has been implemented. Tertiary care hospitals under ESIC, Defence, Railways, paramilitary forces, Steel Ministry etc. have been leveraged for case management.

As on 12th September, 2020, a total of 15,284 COVID treatment facilities with 13,14,646 dedicated isolation bed without O₂ have been created. Also, a total of 2,31,093 oxygen supported isolation beds and 62,717 ICU beds (including 32,575 ventilator beds) have been created. Constant monitoring of the disease trend, analysis of available infrastructure and planning in advance for the future has averted a major crisis as was faced by many developed countries. In addition, a total of 12,826 quarantine centres with 5,98,811 beds have been created.

Guidelines on Clinical management of COVID-19 were issued and regularly updated & widely circulated. These include case definition, prevention of infection control, laboratory diagnosis, early supporting therapy, management of severe

cases and complications. No specific antivirals have been proven effective so far. Symptomatic treatment for fever and cough, appropriate rehydration, supplemental oxygen therapy remains the mainstay of treatment. We have re-purposed the drug Hydroxychloroquine for mild (but high-risk cases) and for moderate cases. This was done with limited scientific evidence but well acknowledging that this drug has been used widely in India for other ailments where it is used for prolonged periods of time, with good safety profile.

In addition, provisions for investigational therapies has also been made for using Remdesivir, Convalescent plasma and Tocilizumab for managing severe cases under close medical supervision.

With the intent to ensure dissemination of these standard treatment protocols and reduce mortality to maximum extent, a number of initiatives have been launched. An AIIMS Corona helpline 9971876591 has been started to guide the doctors on medical management. AIIMS Delhi is running the COVID-19 National Teleconsultation Centre (CoNTeC) which can be reached by calling +91-9115444155. It is catering to doctors, from anywhere in the country, who want to consult AIIMS faculty for the management of COVID-19 patients, as well as to the public in general. Telemedicine guidelines have been issued on 25.03.2020 to provide teleconsultation to patients for mitigation of their illness and prevention of crowding in clinics. It may also help in triage, treatment and counseling for care of ill patients by healthcare providers in areas with limited access.

A clinical Center of Excellence (CoE) initiative has also been launched by Ministry of Health & FW with AIIMS, Delhi as apex nodal institution and State level CoEs to provide guidance on clinical management protocols. Weekly webinars are being organized by AIIMS to guide these State level CoEs on crucial clinical issues that doctors may require guidance on managing Covid cases. These State level CoEs are expected to further disseminate these in their districts.

To ensure accessibility of quality treatment for both Covid and non-Covid health issues, to far flung areas, use of telemedicine has been promoted in a big way. 'eSanjeevani', a web-based comprehensive telemedicine solution is being utilized (in 23 states) to extend the reach of specialized healthcare services to masses in both rural areas and isolated communities.

ICMR is establishing a National Clinical Registry on COVID that will provide insights into clinical course of COVID-19 disease, its spectrum and outcome of patients.

Thirteen clinical trials of repurposed drugs and harnessing of traditional knowledge using the modern medicine approach are building a portfolio of therapeutic options for Covid-19 patients. Phase 2 clinical trial of immunomodulator Sepsivac has been completed successfully. Phase 2 clinical trial of the first-ever phytopharmaceutical ACQH is underway. One prophylactic trial of Aswagandha and three trials of Guduchi + Pippali; Yashtimadhu; and polyherbal AYUSH drug (AYUSH-64) are planned on moderately ill Covid19 patients.

An effective vaccine would be the sure shot tool in armamentarium against this disease. On this front, globally, there are around 145 candidate vaccines in preclinical evaluation and currently 35 vaccines in clinical trial. In India, a major focus has been on facilitating the development of COVID19 vaccine. More than 30 vaccine candidates have been supported which are in different stages of development, 3 candidates are in advanced stage of Phase I/II/III trials and more than 4 are in advanced pre-clinical development stage.

COVID19 Biorepositories have been setup, which have collected more than 40,000 samples which have been made available to researchers and industry for developing diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines.

To coordinate procurement and distribution of Covid vaccine, Government of India has constituted a National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 on 7th August, 2020, under the Chairmanship of Member (Health), NITI Aayog.

Ministry of AYUSH has contributed through various measures for the management and mitigation of Covid-19. The Ministry recommended guidelines of self-care for preventive health measures and boosting immunity. Ministry of AYUSH has also issued health advisories from different systems of medicine on prophylaxis and immunity promotion which was translated into eight foreign languages and circulated to Indian Embassies. Various AYUSH Hospitals were designated as quarantine centres, isolation centres, Covid Care Centres and Covid Health Centres. Around 8.5 lakh Ayush healthcare professionals have been

registered on covidwarriors.gov.in. Ministry of AYUSH has formed an “Inter-disciplinary AYUSH R&D Task Force”. The Task Force has formulated and designed clinical research protocols for AYUSH prophylactic studies and add-on interventions in COVID-19 positive cases. AYUSH-CSIR collaborative studies were initiated with AYUSH medicines for prophylaxis/treatment. A large scale population-based study through AYUSH Research Councils and National Institutes under the Ministry on prophylaxis of AYUSH interventions in targeted populations in containment zones is underway. Ministry of AYUSH has also initiated impact assessment of effectiveness, acceptance and usage of AYUSH advisories & measures in prevention of COVID 19 through a mobile application app known as AYUSH-Sanjivani app.

States have been requested to assess the stock of their logistic, particularly Personal Protective Equipment and procure the same. Total orders for 1.92 crore PPEs have been placed by the Central Government so far. The Ministry has already supplied 1.39 Crore PPE Kits and 3.43 crore N95 masks to States (as on 11thSeptember, 2020).

Department of Pharmaceuticals increased the production of drug hydroxychloroquine manifold. As on 11thSeptember, 2020, MoHFW has issued 10.84 crore tablets of Hydroxychloroquine to States/UTs. India has also exported it to more than 140 countries.

The Central Government has already issued orders to purchase 60,948 ventilators to meet any contingencies. As on 11th September 2020, 32,109 ventilators have been allocated to States of which 30,170 have been delivered. The country is self-sufficient in oxygen and oxygen cylinders. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has procured & supplied 1,02,400 oxygen cylinders to various States/UTs so far. In addition, oxygen concentrators are also being supplied to States.

One of the major challenges was to identify and train a large number of Covid warriors across sectors and departments that can be involved in not only COVID related work but also for ensuring maintenance of other essential medical services. Pooling manpower resources has been done from Defence, AYUSH, NCC, NSS, NYK, public sector enterprises, and private sector.

In spite of various constraints and challenges, the Covid warriors rose to the occasion in serving humanity. The country feels indebted to the doctors, nurses, paramedics, frontline field workers, security and police personnel, sanitary workers, volunteers and journalists who have worked tirelessly to protect our countrymen from Covid. I would request the August House to place on record the appreciation for the yeoman services delivered by them.

There had been instances where healthcare service personnel had to face harassment, acts of violence, intimidation and danger to life during discharge of their duties. To overcome this and support their efforts, Government of India promulgated Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 on 22nd April 2020.

To build the capacities of human resources including the medical manpower who help managing patients in hospitals; as well as non-medical personnel and field workers involved in surveillance, logistics etc., modules have been made available on iGOT - Diksha (online platform) by DOPT (<https://igot.gov.in/igot/>). The training modules have been translated to regional languages. Close to 29.15 lakh people have registered for various courses. This includes 5,699 doctors, 86,018 Ayush Professionals, 4,102 Nurses, 963 Allied Health Professionals, 5,881 frontline workers, 2,70,736 volunteers and 25,42,892 other participants. About 18.96 lakh course completions have taken place on iGOT – Diksha platform. Training Resources for medical and non-medical personnel have also been made available on the website of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

We have now moved from ‘managing travel related cases’ to containing clusters and large outbreaks due to local transmission to wide spread of infection to urban, peri-urban and rural areas. This would require concerted effort by the Government with people’s participation to prevent large scale morbidity and mortality. Equally crucial is to maintain the success achieved in management of reproductive maternal and child health, vaccine preventable diseases, non-communicable diseases, tuberculosis, vector borne diseases such as Kala Azar and Malaria. Hence there is an increased thrust for managing non-Covid essential services.

MoHFW website is being updated daily to provide general public with information on current status of COVID-19 spread in India. Regular press releases are being issued and press briefings are being held.

Communication material and toolkits have been developed (pamphlets, poster, audio and AV films) and provided to the States/UTs on COVID-19 disease, preventive steps required to be taken by the communities, handling of myths and stigma related to disease and to widely publicize the helpline numbers available. Communication material is also being hosted on MoHFW website and through social media. Dos and Don'ts are being widely circulated through SMS (550 crore SMSs have been sent). Caller-tune messages are being sent to telecom subscribers in 13 languages and 117 crore subscribers have been reached.

A dedicated call center / helpline (1075) had been started in the initial days to guide community at large which is being used by the citizens very effectively and on a regular basis. A total of 41.04 lakh calls have been received so far.

Department of Bio Technology, Department of Science and Technology, CSIR and Department of Health Research covered the entire chain of scientific and technological solutions holistically for COVID-19 through academia, R&D labs, industry, startups and NGOs. These solutions include basic scientific studies on the behavior, transmission and effects of virus, mathematical modeling of the pandemic, and products such as the world class ventilators, diagnostic kits, vaccines, therapeutics, antiviral coatings, disinfectants, PPEs, masks, mobile

testing booths and hospitals, artificial intelligence based tools, and information dissemination to masses.

For these purposes, a comprehensive mapping of our entire startup ecosystem was done to identify and support over 110 technology startups and over 20 industries for commercial production. Over 150 projects in all areas of virus behavior have been initiated.

Government of India is regularly coordinating with WHO headquarters, regional office and country office to get updates on evolving scenario. Government of India has also provided support to other countries in tackling the challenge posed by the Covid. India has played a major role in shaping up G20 and BRICS response to Covid. India is also extending support wherever required to neighboring SAARC countries.

The Government is proactively identifying gaps and building an Atmanirbhar Bharat that will be able to take challenges of similar pandemics, epidemics and disasters in future. An Expenditure Finance Memorandum of Rs. 65,560.98 Crores under Prime Minister Atmanirbhar Swasth Bharat Yojana for strengthening is under consideration. This includes investment in research, healthcare and public health infrastructure with particular focus on pandemic management.

I would urge all Hon'ble members of Parliament that battle for Covid is still far from over. On one hand, when we are in stage of Unlock so as to revive

economy, and have a balanced approach, it is important that sustained community support is ensured consistently to control the spread of Covid infection & break its chain of transmission.

Your support is crucial to create awareness in your respective constituencies for Covid Appropriate Behaviour. The simple public health measures of wearing of mask/face covers, frequent hand washing, respiratory etiquettes, and physical distancing “2-gaj kidoori” as a social vaccine, if practiced in a responsible manner, will help us control/suppress the transmission of Covid.

I wish to inform this house that the Government is taking all necessary measures to prevent spread of the COVID in India.

THE BANKING REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020

(BILL NO. 56 OF 2020)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS(SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN) moved the motion that leave be granted to withdraw a Bill further to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN *Opposing the motion for withdrawal of the Bill, said:* The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 was introduced in the House on 3rd March, 2020 but it could not be passed in that Session because of the pandemic. But on 26th June 2020, the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance was promulgated. Now the hon. Finance Minister comes here to withdraw the Bill. When the Government makes a legislative proposal, the long-term interest of the society has to be taken into account. The Parliament and the Presidential power under Article 123(1) of the Constitution, everything is taken for granted.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN *replying said:* I fully appreciate the hon. Member's concern. Why did the ordinance become necessary? We were going through a pandemic and there was stress in several cooperative banks. Therefore, it was felt that till we clear the Bill there should not be a situation where many of the cooperative banks would suffer and therefore we brought in an ordinance. What we are bringing now after withdrawing that Bill will give the Reserve Bank a chance to be able to restructure any distressed cooperative banks. This Bill is essentially having all the features of the original Bill, but with a few more things being added so that depositors do not face similar situation as has arisen out of the PMC problem. I would like to appeal to the Member to allow consideration and withdrawal of this Bill.

The Bill was withdrawn.

THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO) moved the motion that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY *opposing the motion for introduction of the Bill, said:* The Bill being presented here does not contain any statement. The farmers and consumers will suffer huge losses by complete removal of the stock limit from the agricultural produce, food items. This Bill will result in black marketing and hoarding and benefit just a few corporates. A similar scam had taken place in procurement of pulses in 2015. I oppose the manner in which this Bill is being presented under our federal structure.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: This Bill is extremely subjective. The Bill does not define extraordinary circumstances under which the Government may regulate. The lack of stock limit allows corporates and traders with capacity and resources to hoard the commodities which will allow them to manipulate the market. It will cause the prices to increase exorbitantly.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Earlier, the states had the power to regulate stocks being kept by people. It was necessary for avoiding hoarding and black-

marketing or seasonal shortages during floods and droughts. Now, this power is being taken over by the Central Government. If the Ordinance becomes an Act, it will help the hoarders.

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO *replying said:* This Ordinance was promulgated on 5th June 2020 when the entire country was under lockdown while facing the pandemic. At that time, the farmers had their crops harvested but there was no buyer. On the other hand, their demand was increasing. Therefore, this ordinance was brought so as to provide an opportunity to farmers to sell their produce and for buyers to buy the essential commodities easily. A high powered committee comprising of Chief Ministers of several States was constituted before bringing it in which it was decided that this Bill should be brought. No injustice will be done to the farmers due to this Bill.

The Bill was introduced.

THE ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY (REGULATION)

BILL, 2020

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN): moved that the leave be granted to introduce a Bill for the regulation and supervision of the assisted reproductive technology clinics

and the assisted reproductive technology banks, prevention of misuse, safe and ethical practice of assisted reproductive technology services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR *opposing the motion for introduction of the Bill, said:*

The Bill violates the right to equality provided under Article 14 of the Constitution. It does not create adequate safeguards for the donor. It remains silent on the health risks associated with participation in this process and does not provide for any compensation in the case of mishap. I would urge the Minister to undertake a detailed discussion with experts, incorporate recommendations, look at the Surrogacy Bill that this Government had passed here and bring the new Bill back to the House with necessary amendments.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN *replying said:* I think we are very much within the legislative competence to introduce this Bill. When the discussion will take place about this Bill, I will answer all the queries which have been posed by Hon'ble Member.

The Bill, by leave, was introduced

**THE FARMERS' PRODUCE, TRADE AND COMMERCE (PROMOTION
AND FACILITATION) BILL, 2020**

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE;
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF
PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)** moved that leave
be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of an ecosystem where the
farmers and traders enjoy the freedom of choice relating to sale and purchase of
farmers' produce which facilitates remunerative prices through competitive
alternative trading channels to promote efficient, transparent and barrier-free inter-
State and intra-State trade and commerce of farmers' produce outside physical
premises of markets or deemed markets notified under various State agricultural
produce market legislations; to provide a facilitative framework for electronic
trading and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY *opposing the motion for introduction
of the Bill, said:* I do vehemently oppose the introduction of this legislative
document. My main objection is that Parliament lacks legislative competence to
legislate on this subject because the subject Agriculture is a State subject and is in
the Entry 14. Moreover, the subject 'Markets and Fairs' is also in the State list and
is in the Entry 28 of the list 2. Article 246 (3) clearly states that the State
legislature has exclusive powers to make laws on any matters enumerated in the
State list. The Central Government is nullifying the APMC law enacted by the

various State Governments. The Central Government is not competent to make such a law. This is a clear case of legislative overreach. I oppose the Bill because the Bill is directly violating the provisions of Article 246 and the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. The Bill is also a direct attack on the federal structure of Constitution.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Under Rule 72(1) of the Rules of Procedure. I oppose this Bill. The suspicion is that the Government is attempting to implement the controversial recommendations of the Shanta Kumar Committee. That will have the effect of diluting public procurement, the Public Distribution System, the Minimum Support Price principle and food security. Farmers are seeing this as an jettison the Minimum Support Price Mechanism and Government Procurement of food grains. The farmers in Haryana are up in arms and they are agitating. The Punjab Assembly has passed a Resolution against this Bill. I shall request the Hon'ble Minister not to push through this Bill.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: I put on record my opposition for introduction of this Bill. As far as legislative competence is concerned, the subject Agriculture is included in the Entry 14 under the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. This Bill intends to take away the powers of the state governments to levy any market fee and cess on the farmers and traders so as to mobilise revenue resources for the State. This Bill also weakens the APMC law and deprives the states from many powers. All these negative changes have been mooted by the Central Government

without any consultation with the state governments. Therefore, this is a case of overreach legislation. This Bill is a conspiracy to increase the participation of the corporate. I, for these reasons, oppose the introduction of this Bill.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: I rise to oppose the introduction of this Bill under rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. This Bill is therefore out of the legislative competence of the Parliament and the Government cannot bring any such legislation. This Bill intends to dilute the powers of the state governments under the APMC Act. Under this Bill, the State Government would not be able to impose any fee or cess for mobilisation of revenue resources for the development in the State.

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR *replying said:* I strongly believe that after a long spell of time the revolutionary changes could be effected in the conditions of the farmers and the agriculture sector through this Bill. I would like to inform the august house that inter-state commerce and trade are included in the Entry 42 under the Union List. Therefore, the Union Government is fully empowered to legislate on the matters relating to inter-state trade which includes agriculture produce as well. The farmer is the largest producer and so far he did not have the right to determine as to where and when he would sell his produce. I believe that with the enactment of this legislation the farmers will get this right. This Bill will not impact the APMC Act in any manner. If the state governments wish, the agriculture markets will operate as the state governments have their own laws. The

trade happening outside agriculture markets will be covered under the new law. The new law will give freedom to the farmers to sell their produce and the traders will also be free from the license *raj*. This will also curb the corruption and will strengthen the supply chain. It will facilitate the private investment in the agriculture sector and the benefits will reach the village and agriculture fields. This will bring about all-round development of the agriculture sector.

The Bill was introduced

**THE FARMERS (EMPOWERMENT AND PROTECTION) AGREEMENT
OF PRICE ASSURANCE AND FARM SERVICES BILL, 2020**

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE;
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF
PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)** moved for leave
be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for a national framework on farming
agreements that protects and empowers farmers to engage with agri-business firms,
processors, wholesalers, exporters or large retailers for farm services and sale of
future farming produce at a mutually agreed remunerative price framework in a

fair and transparent manner and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY *opposing the motion for introduction of the Bill said:* I have to rise again to oppose the introduction of a Bill because the hon'ble Minister is trying to destroy the agriculture sector and the benefits accrued to from the green revolution to our country. There were two aspects of green revolution - the one being the APMC and the other was public procurement. The proposed legislation intends to weaken both these aspects. The priority should be to ensure that the farmers and producers have adequate bargaining power and they get a price higher than the Minimum Support Price. The Bill does not ensure these two key requirements. The Government wants to make the owner of the land, a servant. This is a contract system.

Farmers are being pushed into the snare of contract culture. On the one hand, the Government makes move to enfeeble the farmers and at the same time acts in camouflage claiming the progress of the farming community. The fact of the matter is that the provisions of this Bill shall ruin the farmers.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Contract farming goes against the interest of the farmers. The provisions contained in the Bill would subjugate the farmers at the altar of a handful of crony capitalists and would prove to be a death knell for agriculture. This apart, it is likely to abolish the livelihood of crores of people

associated with grain market and the other market systems. The liberty of the farmers would be taken away by the capitalists engaged in contract farming.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: The Bill violates the basic tenet of federalism enshrined in our Constitution. It is beyond the legislative competence of this House to enact a law on a subject figuring in the State List. Contracts relating to agricultural lands don't figure in the Concurrent List either. Secondly, food security recognized as a fundamental right is also being endangered. No expert opinion or stakeholders' suggestion has been sought to benefit the masses during the National lockdown. I request the hon. Minister to withdraw the Bill.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: This Bill is a severe limitation of States' rights and responsibilities. It is making a unilateral decision by the Central Government and is against the principle of federalism and decentralization. In this Bill provisions have been made to deprive the farmers of their liberty and hand it over to the corporate sector. There is no mention of minimum support price which I am afraid will lead to the severe exploitation of the farmers. Therefore, I would like the Government to withdraw this Bill.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: This Bill takes away the powers vested in States and weakens the federal structure of the nation. It is not at all in the interest of the farmers as through this all the powers shall be shifted to the big capitalists. There is no mention of MSP. The Legislative Assembly of Punjab has registered its vehement protest against this Bill. I request to withdraw the Bill.

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Small farmers account for nearly 86 per cent of the total farming community. The volume of these small farmers' yield is too meagre to bring them any benefit of MSP. In fact, neither can they invest on their own nor is anyone else willing to invest in their farms. It is interesting to note that all of us do suggest a methodology of farming involving less amount of water and fertilizers and are quite in favour of diversification of crops keeping in view the huge impact of climate change. But they tend to be up in arms when it actually comes to taking a definitive initiative to this end through the legislation. Once this Act comes into force, there would be improvement in farming culture as there would be no dearth of investment, new technology shall be inducted and the farming carried along the global standards would lead to high production creating fair scope of fair price of the farmers produce. Alongside, sufficient provisions have been made in the agreement to be signed with the farmers to ensure farmers' financial gains even in the face of natural calamities.

The Bill was introduced.

THE BANKING REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS(SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN) moved that the leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY *opposing the Motion for introduction of the Bill, said:* The motive behind this Ordinance is that all major financial intermediaries should be under the control of the Central Government. This Ordinance is naked aggression on State's rights and coercive federalism is on display. Earlier on, the State was the controlling regulator as far as the cooperative banks were concerned. Now, the States are being removed and State's power is being taken away.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: The Ordinance that this Bill seeks to replace has been legally challenged and the matter is pending before the hon. Madras High Court. In the opinion of the hon. Speaker sub-judice matter shouldn't be discussed. Besides, views of the Members of the Standing Committee have also not been sought on such a crucial subject. So, I would request the Minister to kindly withdraw this and refer it to the Standing Committee.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN *replying said:* First of all, the State Cooperative Laws are not being proposed to be amended. Only the cooperatives using the word 'bank' are being touched upon which is very much without the legislative competence of the House. In fact, it would apply only to those cooperative societies, which use the words 'bank', 'banker' or 'banking'. In so far as legal challenge in some court is concerned, there is no interlocutory relief, which is being provided in the court. There is no other direct direction also given by the court in the matter against the operation of this Ordinance. On reference of the Bill to the Standing Committee, all I would say that the dubious dealings by

certain Banks have necessitated this move since a great number of depositors are in the rough patch and as many as 277 Urban Cooperative Banks are reporting loss.

The Bill was introduced.

***MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

- (1) **SHRI RAJU BISTA** laid a statement regarding conferring ST status on left out Gorkha Sub-Tribes.
- (2) **KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL** laid a statement regarding need to review NCERT history text books.
- (3) **DR. UMESH G. JADAV** laid a statement regarding establishment of a Skill Development University in Kalaburagi.
- (4) **DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR** laid a statement regarding need to set up a rail coach factory in Tikamgarh district, Madhya Pradesh.
- (5) **SHRI SANGAM LAL GUPTA** laid a statement regarding need to construct 4 lane bye-pass road connecting NH 96 to NH 231 in Pratapgarh Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.
- (6) **SHRI NAYAB SINGH SAINI** laid a statement regarding need to construct a ring road in Kurukshetra city in Haryana to ease traffic problem.

* Laid on the Table as directed by the Chair.

- (7) **DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI** laid a statement regarding need to take measures for welfare of landless and marginal farmers.
- (8) **SHRI ARUN SAO** laid a statement regarding need to develop a bird sanctuary on the land adjoining Ghonga (Kori) dam in Bilaspur Parliamentary Constituency, Chhattisgarh.
- (9) **SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL** laid a statement regarding need to conduct second survey of 93 km Aurangabad-Chalisingaon Railway line.
- (10) **SUSHRI DIYA KUMARI** laid a statement regarding concerns of taxpayers with respect to GST.
- (11) **SHRI MANOJ TIWARI** laid a statement regarding need to establish two colleges in North East Delhi Parliamentary Constituency, Delhi.
- (12) **SHRI TEJASVI SURYA** laid a statement regarding need to frame policy to encourage investment from Indian Venture Capitalists in Startups in the country.
- (13) **SHRI SHANTANU THAKUR** laid a statement regarding need to establish a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Bongaon Parliamentary Constituency, West Bengal.

- (14) **SHRI JOHN BARLA** laid a statement regarding need to include certain castes of Gorkha and tribal communities of West Bengal in the list of SC/ST.
- (15) **SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH** laid a statement regarding illegal bajri quarrying in Baran district of Rajasthan.
- (16) **SHRI GAJENDRA UMRAO SINGH PATEL** laid a statement regarding need to provide rail facility in Khargone Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh.
- (17) **SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL** laid a statement regarding functioning of Armed Forces Tribunal.
- (18) **SHRI GAURAV GOGOI** laid a statement regarding judicial enquiry into death of protestors during CAA protests in Assam.
- (19) **SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY** laid a statement regarding Special Investigation Team and Judicial Enquiry Committee into handling of Covid-19 situation in Telangana.
- (20) **DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY** laid a statement regarding setting up of Kendriya Vidyalaya in North Chennai.
- (21) **SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU** laid a statement regarding payment of dues to PSUs.
- (22) **SHRI KAUSHLENDRA KUMAR** laid a statement regarding reconstruction of library of ancient Nalanda University in Bihar.

- (23) **SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB** laid a statement regarding approval of project under AMRUT Scheme in Cuttack, Odisha.
- (24) **SHRI MALOOK NAGAR** laid a statement regarding need to include persons belonging to Gurjar and all other backward communities in Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.
- (25) **SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE** laid a statement regarding need to increase Government spending on Online Education in view of COVID-19 Pandemic.
- (26) **ADV. A. M. ARIFF** laid a statement regarding relief measures for victims of COVID-19 Pandemic.

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HOMOEOPATHY BILL, 2020

AND

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR INDIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICINE

BILL, 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:

Sir, I would like to say in succinct to this House about these two Bills that 50 year

ago in 1970 this august House enacted the Indian Medicine Central Council Act and again in 1973, the Central Council for Homoeopathy Act was enacted in order to regulate Indian systems of medicine and Homoeopathy. The Central Council for Indian System of Medicine and the Central Council for Homoeopathy were constituted under both of these Acts. But it was felt that both of these institutions failed to discharge their responsibilities which they were supposed to do in order to monitor the Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy and oversee the medical education and their publicity and moreover ensuring their accessibility to common people in the country. Besides, there was lack of transparency in these institutions. These institutions also got affected by corruptions the way the Medical Council of India got affected within a few years. Hence, a new Ministry, the Ministry of AYUSH was carved out on 9th November, 2014 for the Indian Systems of Medicine under the leadership of our Prime Minister when we came to power in 2014. It was for the first time the National AYUSH Mission was introduced in the country. The National Medical Commission was constituted to replace the Medical Council of India for uprooting corruption from these institutions and bringing about transparency therein. In 2016, NITI Aayog suggested that something needs to be done for Homoeopathy and Indian Systems of Medicine also on the lines of National Medical Commission which is being formed. I have to say this much only about these two Bills which have been brought in for consideration that both of these Bills have already been passed by the Rajya Sabha after thorough discussion.

After 70 years of independence, India witnessed historic reforms in consequence of the formation of the National Medical Commission. Similarly, with the constitution of these commissions we will be able to take the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy ahead successfully towards faster growth, transparency, corruption-free education and to usher in substantial reforms in medical education. So, I would like to urge the House to discuss these Bill and pass them unanimously.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR *initiating said:* The Government has prescribed effective grievance redressal mechanism, periodic assessment through this Bill, but it has ignored many other recommendations of the Standing Committee in its report in this Bill. Similarly, Yoga and Naturopathy have been excluded. Whereas, this Commission, which is supposed to represent an all-encompassing varied body in overseeing all the Indian systems of medicine, arbitrarily excludes both Yoga and Naturopathy. The Standing committee recommended creating a Board of Yoga and Naturopathy to provide representation to these two important fields. So, I would like to ask that if Yoga and Naturopathy are also Indian systems of medicine, as acknowledged by the AYUSH Ministry itself, why are they not included in a Bill. Again, the Government has not only ignored the recommendations of the Standing Committee, it seems to have basically violated the Constitution in conferring to the Central Government itself the appellate jurisdiction provided by the legislation. The setting up of an appellate tribunal has

been recommended by the Standing Committee and ignored by the Government. Similarly, there is no examination for training for existing teachers. Since National Teachers Eligibility Test is the only means of becoming a teacher once the Bill comes into effect, it would ruin the prospects of any practitioner who has a practical insight of the subject but does not have the degree and will have to pass the exam. And importantly, Clause 34 of the Bill permits a practitioner of an Indian System of Medicine to continue practicing even in the absence of any recognised medical qualification. I think that this completely is a dangerous signal. Similarly, an exit test should not be the only sufficient yardstick to achieve a practicing licence. During the debate on Ayurveda I mentioned that we need more research and documentation. So, we need to have a Board of Research under the National Commission. Finally, there is a failure here to develop systems worthy of international recognition because we have a big challenge in getting Indian systems to be understood and recognized globally by insisting on certain standards and levels. Therefore, the Government should take these suggestions into account.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL: Firstly, I would like to speak on the National Commission for Homeopathy Bill, 2020. There is a need to mention within the Bill whether or not the verdict of the Central Government is final or the aggrieved person has a right to approach the Judiciary. Similarly, holding PG NET will be an added burden on both the students and the examiner. So, the rank in National Exit Test itself can be the parameter to get admission into a post-graduate

course. Again, there must be an provision stating some sort of refreshers' course being conducted for teachers not holding PG degree. Similarly, meeting of autonomous board should be held on a daily basis. The students must compulsorily be educated upon the new and basic technology of the medical field, that is, MRI, CT Scan etc. Moreover, I would like to request the Government to carry on international collaboration and promotion of Homeopathy through National Institute of Homeopathy, Kolkata. Again there must be more elected Members from the States in the Commission. Similarly, a separate tribunal must be set up to deal with the jurisdiction related to the Commission which must be headed by a retired judge of Supreme Court and High Court.

*** SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE:**

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: First of all, I would like to welcome the Homoeopathy Bill. Today, it is a good thing that the Government wants to regulate this sector seriously. Through this Bill, a lot of changes are being brought about in the education system. But the 12th class children studying in different boards of the country have to face a lot of difficulty because of the variation in the curriculum. Similarly, our diagnostic system is dominated by Allopathy whereas Allopathy and Homoeopathy are not allowed. Even today, Homoeopathy doctors say that we have the treatment of the Corona epidemic, but the ICMR or the regulatory body is not allowing them to practice. The Government should take note

* Please see Supplement

of it. At the same time, I did not think the exit test system is the right step. The Government will also have to regulate the number of institutions. If the government does take all these precautions, I support and welcome both the Bills.

*** SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:**

***SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL:**

***SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL:**

***SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:**

*** DR.BEESETTI VENKATA SATYAVATHI:**

***SHRI JAYADEV GALLA:**

***SHRI E. T. MOHAMMED BASHEER:**

***SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:**

***SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:**

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: With regard to the National Commission for Homeopathy Bill, 2020, I would like to say that during COVID pandemic, Homeopathy has become more important . People are now finding alternatives for allopathy and only request to the Government is that all the suggestions made by the Standing Committee should be implemented. It is very much required to include Yoga and Naturopathy in this Bill.

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY: I feel, as long as we have different syllabuses for school education, it is unfair to have NEET. So, I would request that this NEET be abolished till the Government either start CBSE schools throughout

* Please see Supplement

the country or have a common system of education for all the students. When most of the countries are in the process of evaluating alternative sources of medicines like Homeopathy, Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and all these things, I am surprised that we are not doing enough research into these. I am sure that there are umpteen number of patients who are being treated by Homeopathy. There are lakhs of doctors and there are crores of patients who are being benefitted. But we do not know whether these are really effective. So, I request the Government to make sure that adequate research is done before any treatment is given to the people.

*** DR. SUBHAS SARKAR:**

***DR. UMESH G. JADAV:**

***DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED:**

The Bill was passed.

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SNEHLATA SHRIVASTAVA
Secretary General

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

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* Please see Supplement