

LOK SABHA

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

Monday, July 8, 2019 / Ashadha 17, 1941 (Saka)

STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS

(i) *Re: Approval of Notification No. 5/2019-Customs*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR) *moved that* in pursuance of section 8A(1) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, read with sub-section (3) of section 7 of the said Act, this House hereby approves of notification No. 5/2019-Customs dated 16.02.2019 [G.S.R. 124 (E) dated 16th February, 2019] which seeks to amend the First Schedule of the Customs Tariff Act so as to insert new tariff item 9806 00 00 under Chapter 98 of the First Schedule of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 to prescribe 200% customs duty on all goods originating in or exported from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

* Hon. Members may kindly let us know immediately the choice of language (Hindi or English) for obtaining Synopsis of Lok Sabha Debates.

The Resolution was adopted.

(ii) *Re: Approval of Notification No. 16/2019-Customs*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS**

(SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR) moved that in pursuance of section 8A (1) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, read with sub-section (3) of section 7 of the said Act, this House hereby approves of notification no. 16/2019-Customs dated 15.06.2019 [G.S.R. 425 (E) dated 15th June, 2019] which seeks to increase the basic customs duty on the following goods:

- (a) Lentils (Mosur) (071340 00) from 40% to 50%,
- (b) Boric acid (2810 00 20) from 17.5% to 27.5% and
- (c) Other diagnostic and laboratory reagents (3822 00 90) from 20% to 30%.

The Resolution was adopted.

THE DNA TECHNOLOGY (USE AND APPLICATION) REGULATION

BILL, 2019

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE; MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN) moved that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation of use and application of Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) technology for the purposes of establishing the identity of certain categories of persons including the victims, offenders, suspects, undertrials, missing persons and unknown deceased persons and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY *opposing the introduction of the Bill said:* Government is going to violate the fundamental rights of the people of our country because it has proposed DNA testing of undertrials in a compulsory manner. Therefore, we oppose the introduction of the flawed legislative document. It inadequately regulates the use of DNA in civil matters as it is silent on consent, storage and removal of profiles. Similarly, it does little to address the capacity constraints of the law enforcement agencies, and neither does it provide a roadmap towards building capacity. The proposed regulatory board is too powerful and its functioning is too opaque. I propose that DNA samples may be collected on the orders of the court.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: This Bill risks the concern of data profiling and the institution of surveillance state against the ordinary person in this country. How can the Government pass the DNA Bill first when it has no Data Protection

Law yet? Clearly, the Data Protection Law must be the basis and the DNA Bill must be in consonance with such a Data Protection Law.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN *replying said:* I wish to inform the hon. Members that all these concerns which have been talked about and raised here, I do not think there is any serious substance in them. Secondly, I would like to inform that this Bill was passed in the last Lok Sabha also. We got it scrutinised through all forums including the Parliamentary Standing Committee, Law Commission, Law Department and every possible place. It has been brought again because it could not become a law. It could not be sent to the Rajya Sabha because of paucity of time. So, I promise that when we discuss this Bill in this House, we will address each and every issue that has been raised.

The Bill was introduced.

THE UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) AMENDMENT BILL,

2019

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY) moved that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN *opposing the introduction of the Bill said:* I rise to oppose the introduction of the Bill on four grounds. Number one is

regarding the original Act of 1967. The sole purpose or the intent of the Bill is to address the issues and prevent unlawful actions done by the associations or organisations. Now, the Government, by the new amendment, is proposing to bring in the individuals. Number two, the proposed amendment to Section 35 is the violation of the fundamental right-Right to life and personal liberty in Article 21 of the Constitution. Three, it is against the directions of the Supreme Court in the cases related to TADA and POTA. Four, the Statement of Objects and Reasons is very vague. It is indefinite and unclear.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Let me stress that Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act enables the Government only to ban organisations and associations. It is meant to be used against a collective and not against individuals. Why do the Government want to use UAPA to declare an individual a terrorist? Let the Government give us examples of terrorists who are not members of banned organisations, due to which we need such a law. The Bill really opens up a great deal of scope for misuse. Secondly, once a person is unilaterally declared a terrorist by the Government, the burden is shifted on to the individual to prove his innocence before a Review Committee. Thirdly, there is a Pre-Legislative Public Consultation Policy, 2014 under which the Government is supposed to undertake a public consultation. So, we cannot agree to this Bill because any activity, which is not tolerable to the Government could be called to account by giving inelastic definition of anti-national activity.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: I strongly oppose the introduction of this Bill. This Bill is tantamount to curbing of the Fundamental Rights, which have been guaranteed by the Constitution of India. Similarly, this Bill gives extra-Constitutional powers to the Government and the officers to do victimisation and do the things according to their will and pleasure. We have had the experience of this UAPA Act. Hundreds of thousands of youths are languishing in jails. The charge-sheets have not been filed against them even after years,. Similarly, we all know that officers are getting extraordinary powers, which they are misusing. So, I am of the opinion and it is my humble suggestion that the Government must withdraw this Bill.

SHRI P.K. KUNHALIKUTTY.: Actually, by misusing this UAPA law, a large number of individuals have been detained without any trial. Anybody can be detained and put behind bars by using this law. So, it is being misused. So, there should be some explanation to be given by the Government that it will not be misused. Not only that, while giving more powers to the investigating agency, there is no assurance that it will not be misused, in future.

SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY *replying said:* I would like to tell the House that our Government is about to adopt zero tolerance policy on the matters of terrorism. Our Government will take up steps whatever will be required to be taken. As on date, there is no provision in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 or in any other legislation to designate individual terrorist under Indian

legal system; and to meet international obligations, it is proposed to add Fourth Schedule and insert the necessary enabling provisions in the relevant Section of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. I would like to tell you that some of the terrorists are individually carrying out their activities even after the terrorists organisations have been banned. Even the Chief of Jaish-e-Mohammed has been declared individual terrorists by the United Nations. Our Government is against terrorist only and the innocent persons will not have any problem. I would like to tell the hon. Members that we are ready to reply to all the issues raised by them during the discussion. Similarly, a pre-legislative consultation was done as this draft amendment Bill was uploaded on the Ministry's website on 19th December, 2016. The suggestions received have been duly considered and examined.

The Bill was introduced.

THE NATIONAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL,

2019

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY) moved that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

SHRI P.K. KUNHALIKUTTY *opposing the introduction of the Bill said:*

When the Government widen the powers of investigation agencies, there should be a limit to that. When the Government widen their powers or give them powers to investigate even outside India, there should be a guarantee that these powers should not be misused.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: With regard to this Bill, three procedural concerns are very serious. First, Government is introducing a Bill which removes the mandate to constitute Special Courts and are designating existing Sessions Courts to double up as Special Courts. One can imagine that our system is so clogged already and there is such a backlog. Now, Government is only adding more cases to our clogged system. We need Special Fast Track Courts to hear terror cases. But the Bill does not propose that. Secondly, the Special Court Judges to hear terror cases are normally specially selected by the Chief Justice of a High Court but the Bill basically removes this procedure. Thirdly, it is a completely piecemeal legislation because it ignores the fundamental problem in the NIA, which is its lack of independence, especially in the area of prosecution. The Bill does not do anything to insulate the NIA from political interference.

SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY *replying said:* Our Government wants to strengthen the NIA Act. Appointment of Judges of Special Court will be done by the Chief Justice of High Court concerned as is being done now. We have only simplified the process involved. In the event of resignation by a Judge of NIA or

in the event of his transfer, it takes more than 2-3 months in taking the charge by the another Judge. So, we have made changes to prevent this. Secondly, amendment of Section 3(2) will enable NIA to investigate terror offences abroad against Indian citizens property.

The Bill was introduced.

THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY) moved that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY *opposing the introduction of the Bill said:* The Bill amends this to provide that a person who has been a Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court will be the Chairperson of NHRC, which will certainly degrade and reduce the gravity, the status of the National Human Rights Commission. Also, I draw the attention of the Government that the Bill should enable significant expansion of the number of members at the national and State Human Rights Commission and ensure adequate representation of members. My third and the last point is that scarcity of resources or misappropriation of resources plagues the functioning of many State Human

Rights Commissions. The amendment Bill does not take any cognizance of the insufficiently staffed and under-funded Human Rights Commission at the State level.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: The Government says it is bringing this Bill to satisfy the standards of the Paris principle. The most essential feature of the Paris Principle is having an autonomous and independent Human Rights Commission whereas, none other than the Supreme Court of our country has declared that the National Human Rights Commission is a toothless tiger because the Government has been ignoring its recommendation and direction. My second objection is that the National Human Rights Commission itself has said that the statutory bar on taking up human rights violations beyond one year since the date of an incident has to be revised. And, my third point is that the National and State Commissions have been plagued by positions which are left vacant for an unreasonable period of time. The Bill does not even mention the need for time-bound appointments.

SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY *replying said:* The Government has brought this amendment on the basis of Paris Principles. The proposed amendments, especially increasing the representation of civil societies and women, will bring greater conformity with the Paris Principles. It is because 50 per cent of population of India is of women, we have brought this amendment to include them. In regard to staffing, appointments or administrative matters, the Secretary General, NHRC is being delegated both administrative and financial powers, to

enable him to make the required appointment itself. Another thing is that a Supreme Court judge has the same status as that of a Chief Justice. Therefore, we have mentioned 'or' in the Bill.

The Bill was introduced.

THE JALLIANWALA BAGH NATIONAL MEMORIAL (AMENDMENT)

BILL, 2019

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL) moved that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR *opposing the introduction of the Bill said:* On this issue, my party had also opposed the Bill when it was brought in the last Lok Sabha. This Bill removes the President of the Indian National Congress from the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Trust. Without the Congress Party, there would be no Jallianwala Bagh Memorial. The British would try and convert it into a bazar. We are the ones who raised the money, built the memorial and the fact is, therefore, that it is a denial of the heritage of the country of the Freedom Struggle and therefore, it must be stopped. Secondly, there is also a technical objection to the Bill in its present form which is that it empowers the Central Government to

remove nominated trustees before the completion of their terms without assigning any reason. This relates with national heritage so in this centenary year, do not betray our history and our heritage.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL *replying said:* This Bill was presented in Lok Sabha on 23rd December, 2018 and it was passed on 23rd February, 2019 after having a detailed discussion. Due to the paucity of time, this Bill was not passed in Rajya Sabha. So, we have brought this Bill here again and I will reply to the issues raised by the hon. Member when discussion takes place.

The Bill was introduced.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re: *Allegedly engineering defection which is detrimental to the health of Parliamentary democracy.*

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH) *responding to the issue raised by an hon. Member said:* Whatever is happening in Karnataka at this moment, has no link with our Party. Never before in the history of our Party, people of our Party have ever indulged in building up pressure on any Member of Parliament or Member of Legislative Assembly of any other political party or has lured them for defection. We are totally committed towards maintaining the dignity of Parliamentary democracy.

***MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

- (1) **SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH** laid a statement regarding need to construct ROB in Aurangabad parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.
- (2) **SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI** laid a statement regarding widening of N.H. 104 in Sheohar parliamentary constituency, Bihar.
- (3) **SHRI TEJASVI SURYA** laid a statement regarding need to revise the DoPT notification to induct the candidates into IAS from the vacancies in KPSC.
- (4) **SHRI UPENDRA SINGH RAWAT** laid a statement regarding need to construct over bridge or underpass near Barabanki railway station in Uttar Pradesh.
- (5) **SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK** laid a statement regarding need to run trains nos. 22165/66 (Singrauli-Bhopal Express) & 22167/68 (Singrauli-Nizamuddin Express) on daily basis.
- (6) **DR. DHAL SINGH BISEN** laid a statement regarding need to provide rail link between Nagpur and Jabalpur and Ramtek to Gotegaon or Shikara.
- (7) **DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR** laid a statement regarding construction of Kakarwaha Pick Up Weir project on river Dhasan in Madhya Pradesh.

* Laid on the Table as directed by the Speaker.

- (8) **SHRIMATI QUEEN OJA** laid a statement regarding development of flood safety measures in flood-prone districts of Assam.
- (9) **SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM** laid a statement regarding need to set up power plant and mineral-based industries in Palamu parliamentary constituency, Jharkhand.
- (10) **SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH** laid a statement regarding need to provide stoppage of Ranchi- Delhi Garib Rath Express (train no. 12877/78) at Barwadih Railway Station in Jharkhand.
- (11) **SHRI DEVAJI M. PATEL** laid a statement regarding need to declare income of dairy sector as agriculture income.
- (12) **SHRI CHUNNI LAL SAHU** laid a statement regarding need to provide seeds and fertilisers to farmers in Chhattisgarh.
- (13) **SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL** laid a statement regarding setting up of solar energy plants in Bhiwandi Textile Industrial Area in Maharashtra.
- (14) **SHRI C. P. JOSHI** laid a statement regarding need to start international flight service from Udaipur Airport, Rajasthan.
- (15) **SHRI PRAVEEN KUMAR NISHAD** laid a statement regarding need to rejuvenate and make river Aami in Uttar Pradesh pollution-free.
- (16) **SHRI PRATAPRAO PATIL CHIKHALIKAR** laid a statement regarding construction of Bidar-Nanded Railway line.

- (17) **SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN** laid a statement regarding need to construct an underpass at Kottakadevu Arangil railway level crossing in Vadakara Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala.
- (18) **SHRI V.K. SREEKANDAN** laid a statement regarding need to set up a rail coach factory at Kanjicode, Kerala.
- (19) **SHRI HIBI EDEN** laid a statement regarding Kochi 'waste to energy' project.
- (20) **SHRI S. RAMALINGAM** laid a statement regarding works undertaken under Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
- (21) **SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR** laid a statement regarding need to tackle trafficking of women and children in the country.
- (22) **SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE** laid a statement regarding need to amend GSR 751 (E) guidelines to conduct aeronautical study in approach funnel beyond 300 meters.
- (23) **SHRI CHANDESHWAR PRASAD** laid a statement regarding acute water shortage in Jahanabad parliamentary constituency, Bihar.
- (24) **SHRI MAHESH SAHOO** laid a statement regarding enactment of Journalist Protection Act.
- (25) **SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV** laid a statement regarding prevailing law and order situation in the country specially in Uttar Pradesh.

(26) **SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN** laid a statement regarding abolition of GST on job works.

UNION BUDGET-2019-2020-GENERAL DISCUSSION

DR. SHASHI THAROOR *initiating said:* I would like to begin by congratulating the hon. Finance Minister for her maiden Budget, and the first of the new Government in their second innings. The Government's own last Chief Economic Advisor has pointed out that our current growth rate could in reality be as much as 2.5 points lower than what is being projected. Traditional economic wisdom dictates that the GDP of a country will only grow if the key contributions to it expand such as investment, manufacturing consumption and exports. The GDP growth rate in the most recent quarter is considerably lower than such fevered fantasies at a rather tepid 5.8 per cent. According to the Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy (CMIE), the investment both private and public reflects an alarming decline an overall 15-year low. Our manufacturing and services sectors have been particularly hit. So, where does the Government's optimism about investment come from? Consumption levels also tell a negative tale. The automobile sales have also fallen. This Budget reflects complete disregard for the genuine concerns, hopes and aspirations of our people who have given a fresh mandate to this Government. This is perhaps the first Budget in the history of the

country where allocations, were not mentioned. We had to go and look into the documents afterwards. There was strikingly no mention of the country's GDP growth rate. The Government has intentionally failed to provide a full picture of economy, let me begin by doing their job for them. The Economic Survey mentions that the growth rate will even pick up to 7.5 or 7.6 per cent and it will be a step towards hitting this 8 per cent growth rate which is, of course, integral to achieving the PM's target of a \$5 trillion economy by the end of 2024-25. I do not know where they are getting their figures. There is a real credibility issue with any of these numbers. The decline in all the key indicators makes it clear that there is an acute trust deficit among investors coupled with low consumer confidence in the economy. According to a latest research, India will only manage an average annual growth of 5.5 per cent until 2027. As for the fiscal deficit target, the announcement that the Government is again targeting 3.3 per cent hardly inspires any confidence because this 3.3 per cent is the same figure, they announced last year and failed to meet. How will they achieve this target of 3.3 per cent when their projections themselves are highly contestable. This Government has also failed to provide any tangible roll out plan for the much needed tax reform in the form of direct tax code and the Task Force's deadline keeps getting extended. The *aam aadmi* is already paying the highest fuel prices in the world because of this Government's taxes on petrol and diesel at a time when prices of fuel are dropping worldwide. The Finance Minister has added an extra two rupees on every litre of

petrol and diesel. This is adding insult to injury. The Government has also failed to live up to its own promise of a universal corporate tax rate at 25 per cent by Fiscal Year 2020 which was announced in the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget by the then Finance Minister. In comparison, all Chinese companies enjoy a flat corporate tax rate of 25 per cent, with this dropping to 10 per cent to certain small scale or other encouraged business. When the Chinese can thrive with that kind of approach, I don't know why we must tax our businesses. To Kisans, these last five years have been nothing but step-motherly treatment from this Government which has resulted in record level of farmers' suicides. In fact, the PM-KISAN Scheme in its current form is clearly divorced from the reality of the acute agrarian crisis the country is facing. Farmer income in our country has fallen. Growth rate in this sector has been acknowledged by your Economic Survey as having slowed down to a crawl. That is why farmers across the country have risen in protest, last year and a year before. As far as Fasal Bima Yojana is concerned, in this Government's scheme, the actual insurance companies are collecting more than they are paying out. There is the grand announcement of 'Matsya Sampada Yojana' under the Department of Fisheries and not the separate Ministry, a long promise made by this Government.

National Institute of Medicinal Plants and National Ayurveda University have not been established in Thiruvananthapuram. The state of education is bad enough. Allocation for Defence is a very modest increase from last year's

allocation. While 68 per cent of our Army's equipment is in the vintage category. The allocation for the Ministry of Environment is so abysmal that it is even less than what was spent on the statue in Gujarat. There is a striking missed opportunity in the tourism sector which creates eight times jobs. No major tax relief for the industry and major incentives for PPP model tourism development have been provided. 90 per cent of the beneficiaries cannot afford to refill the gas cylinders. If the Government wants to truly respond to the aspirations of the Indian people then it needs to actually address their real fears and hopes. All Government schemes must involve the people of the whole country and not just some.

SHRI JAYANT SINHA: The economy which we inherited in the year 2014 was like a passenger train which had fallen off the track. We had put it back on the track and made it a Rajdhani Train within five years. With this Budget, we will make it a bullet train and will achieve a target of five trillion dollars economy. We have registered an increase of 70 per cent over the GDP figures of 2014. The speed with which we have been making progress since the last five years, we will make our economy worth 350 lakh crore rupees within 6-7 years. About GST, it was said that it was not implemented properly and it failed to meet the expectations. This is totally false. The feat our Government has achieved with GST in the last two years has never been achieved in the history of any country having federal structure. Country like Malaysia had to roll back GST and the Government had to go out. But, our Government came back with thumping

majority because we had implemented the GST in the best manner. All the targets in this Budget are very reasonable targets. The works which could not be done in the last 60 years, we did them in 60 months. If we want to build bullet trains or want to achieve 5 or 10 trillion dollar economy then we will have to encourage both consumption and investment. If we will get investment then it will lead to an increase in production, increased production will create employment, if employment will be created then consumption will increase. This Budget is an historic, visionary and impressive Budget. The consumption has got a tremendous boost through Kisan Samman Nidhi. The middle class will not have to pay tax for income upto Rs. 5 lakh therefore their consumption will also increase. Unlike the previous Governments in the past village, the poor and the farmers have not only been used as mere slogan but have been equipped with the resources also. As many as two crore houses are going to be built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Whenever anyone gets a dwelling unit - be it under affordable housing or under PMAY, they essentially spend at their end too thereby giving impetus to consumption. Thanks to PMGSY conceived by Shree Atal Bihari Vajpayee, there has been a social movement following which the existing Government rolled out a mega social campaign in the form of Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. Now the Government is going to bring about a social revolution in the form of Jal Shakti Abhiyaan. 18 crore households would have safe drinking water through this movement. Fiscal deficit has been pegged at 3.3 per cent. It is a very effective and

significant move. It is for the first time in the history that a sovereign bond is going to be introduced. Our external borrowing Sovereign Bond is just 5 per cent of GDP which is very low vis-à-vis the other countries. If we issue a Sovereign Bond, we will not only be able to borrow at a very low rate compared to mobilizing those savings here in India, but shall also be able to establish a benchmark for all the Government borrowings, both domestic and international. We will also be able to bring those savings into investment. If we create a monetary space for the RBI to take advantage of its accommodative monetary policy and bring down the rate of interest, this will bring down the rates of interest leading to slash in EMI. The decision of Sovereign Bond coupled with 3.3 per cent has been taken very efficiently. Start up, FDI and NRI are being supported in order that savings can be mobilized and high quality investors can be attracted. By promoting electric vehicles we have to reduce dependence on import. Alongside, promotion of e-vehicles and increase of taxes on petroleum and diesel will also address the issue of global warming. Skill development programme is being given impetus and work is being undertaken in the new sectors by consolidating research through National Research Foundation. Budding companies are being given a fillip with potential employment opportunity for the lakhs of people.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The Government claimed that during 2018-19 the tax to GDP ratio would go up to 12.4 per cent which has dwindled to 11.9 per cent. Next year it is going to be 11.7 per cent. The public debt has mounted without any

check causing severe damage to the economy. The income is Rs. 19.62 lakh crore. The expenditure is Rs. 27.86 lakh crore. Hence, the Government is forced to borrow Rs. 7 lakh crore. NHAI and FCI will be borrowing not less than Rs. 4.4 lakh crore. The price of petrol or petroleum products has gone up. This will have cascading effect. Why is it that this is not being brought under GST? The Government is simply ignoring the Salem Steel Plant. Same thing is happening to the Sethusamudram project. This project was the brainchild of Vajpayee Ji. You have not mentioned anything about it. Kindly ensure that this project is taken up and the funds are provided immediately. Please provide the metro rail connectivity from Kathipara to Poonamallee, airport to Vandalur and from Thirumangalam to Ambattur. Sriperumbudur Airport should be constructed. The Government has to provide enough funds for Avadi, Sriperumbudur and Guduvancheri.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE: This Budget is completely a visionless budget. The Budget has imposed cess and additional excise duty on petrol and diesel leading to their price increase. It will be having a tremendous effect on daily lives of the people of the country. Tax relief has not been given to the persons who earn more than Rs.5 lakh a year. A surcharge of three per cent has been imposed on income of Rs.2 crore a year. An annual income of Rs.2 crore is nothing. Such people do not come within the category of rich people. The funds allocated for the empowerment of women are not plentiful. This Budget is completely for the corporates. By making disinvestment, you are keeping the employees and their

services under threat. You are going to sell out the Air India. So far as unemployment is concerned, no plan is there in the Budget to create jobs for youth. Nothing has been indicated in the Budget speech as to how the condition of farmers will improve. As far as the housing loan is concerned, it is stated that if one purchases a house worth a price up to Rs.45 lakh, tax relief will be granted to him. It means the middle-class people who want to purchase a flat in the metro cities will not get tax relief at all. The interest rates of PPF and other small savings schemes have been decreased. It will affect around 104 million elderly people in India. The Government has not implemented the Kothari Commission's Report with regard to spending six per cent of GDP on education. The GST has killed the small-scale industry. Bidi, crackers, beverages, biscuits, pickles, confectionaries and so many other items of daily use have been affected because of the GST. The draconian proposal to levy two per cent tax if annual cash withdrawal exceeds Rs.1 crore will affect Bengal's tea industry as most tea garden owners disburse wages in cash. The Digital India Programme is not at all achieving results. Budgetary allocation has been decreased in respect of industry and commerce and electricity. We need to do something seriously for development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: As the hon. Finance Minister said in her Budget speech, we will certainly become a five trillion dollar economy in the coming five years. Poverty has not been eradicated as yet but under the

leadership of hon. Prime Minister, the development of common man must be ensured. So much relief has been provided in this Budget to many sections of society. Be it the Pradhan Mantri Swadesh Darshan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana, Blue Revolution, distribution of LED bulbs or Ujjwala Yojana, these all schemes have provided great relief to the people. Justice has been done to farmers and labourers. This Budget is to make the future of India. A lot of provisions have been made to develop the rural and urban areas. The condition of BSNL is very miserable. There is urgent need to make the BSNL efficient by the Government. Government is taking much care of the farmers and has implemented so many Recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission. Insurance companies in Maharashtra have collected Rs.21,588.25 lakh crores in the last one year but they have released only Rs.7870.91 lakh crores to the people. I request the hon. Prime Minister to impose ban on these plundering insurance companies. Farmers in Maharashtra have not been paid their price for onion, cotton, *toor* and maize for the last 9 months. If the Government really wants the welfare of farmers then there is a need to set up a National Agriculture Commission. Today, unemployment has also become a very major problem. Keeping in view the unemployment scenario, the Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR: Government has become successful in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people of this country and keeping in

view their progress and prosperity, hon. Finance Minister has presented a very beautiful Budget. The people of this country are very much satisfied with the welfare schemes implemented by this Government. Today, the Government is committed for the development of the country. Earlier, it was not like that and projects took years together to complete. The Government has launched the scheme 'Har Ghar mein Nal' and 'Har Nal mein Jal'. The Bihar Government has also implemented this scheme. The people will get pure drinking water by this scheme. The Raghuram Rajan Committee in its Report has mentioned about 10 most backward states of India and Bihar is one of them. Therefore, there should be a special package for Bihar. In my Parliamentary Constituency, maize is produced on a large scale but there is no facility of its market and storage. Therefore, there should be an arrangement for storage and marketing of maize.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: This Budget has been presented in such a time when slowdown is worsening day by day. On Thursday Finance Minister has presented Economic Survey, it gives a rosy picture, which normally every Economic Survey does. It is also very futuristic. The deficit needs to be discussed more thoroughly. Fiscal deficit is targeted at 3.3 per cent of GDP, which is lower than the revised estimates of 3.4 per cent of 2018-19. Not a single Demand for Grants has been laid yet. The highest percentage of allocation increase is observed in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and one should be happy about it. The best thing is relating to transfer of finance to the

States. The Central Government will be transferring around Rs.13,29,428 crore to States and Union Territories in 2019-20. Government data is being questioned. Accelerating economic growth must be on the top of the agenda of this new Government. For faster growth, what is critically needed is a higher investment rate. Several studies indicate fall in corporate investment. All these points indicate to the urgent need to accelerate investment. There is a need to resolve this issue so that banks get back to lending at a significant pace. Though five trillion U.S. dollar economy appears daunting, it is yet doable provided the Government steps up domestic saving and investment. I request the Government to make Odisha a 'Special Focus State'. Poverty in Odisha has declined sharply but one natural calamity again pulls the State back to poverty.

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SNEHLATA SHRIVASTAVA
Secretary General

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

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

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