

BHS-GS/4B/6.00

श्री हंसराज गंगाराम अहीर (क्रमागत) : मैं सदन को विश्वास दिलाता हूँ कि केन्द्र सरकार सुरक्षा बलों को हर प्रकार से सक्षम करने हेतु कृत संकल्प है। इसी प्रकार हम राज्यों की सहायता training एवं capacity building में करते रहेंगे। साथ ही intelligence sharing तथा आवश्यकता अनुसार केन्द्रीय सुरक्षा बलों की तैनाती जारी रहेगी।

मैं इस सदन के माध्यम से पूरे देश को आश्वस्त करना चाहूँगा कि वामपंथी उग्रवादियों के द्वारा अपने स्वार्थ के लिए देश के कुछ हिस्सों को विकास के लाभ से वंचित रखने एवं जनता को गुमराह करने की नीति को कामयाब नहीं होने दिया जाएगा।

मैं एक बार फिर वीरगति प्राप्त सुरक्षा कर्मियों को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ तथा उनके परिजनों के प्रति संवेदना व्यक्त करते हुए सदन को आश्वस्त करना चाहूँगा कि इन शहीदों का बलिदान व्यर्थ नहीं जाएगा।

(समाप्त)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, announcement by the Chair.

...(Interruptions)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, this is a *suo motu* statement. We are entitled to seek clarifications. Can there not be a time slotted for next week when we can seek clarifications on the statement? ...(Interruptions)...

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी) : सर, हम समय तय कर लेंगे। No problem. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, that is accepted. Your suggestion is accepted.

ALLOCATION OF TIME FOR DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE AND OTHER BUSINESS

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform Members that the Business Advisory Committee in its meeting held on the 16th of March, 2017, has allotted time for Government Legislative Business as follows: -

<u>BUSINESS</u>	<u>TIME ALLOTTED</u>
1. Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bills relating to the following Demands for Grants, after they are passed by Lok Sabha: - (a) Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2016-17. (b) Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2013-14.	Three Hours <i>(To be discussed together)</i>

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2. Consideration and return of the Finance Bill, 2017, after it is passed by Lok Sabha. | Three Hours |
| 3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills, after they are passed by Lok Sabha:- | |
| (a) The Indian Institutes of Management Bill, 2017. | Two Hours |
| (b) The Footwear Design and Development Institute Bill, 2017. | One Hour |
| (c) The Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017. | Four Hours |
| (d) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2017. | One Hour |
| 4. Consideration and agreeing to the amendments made by Lok Sabha to the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016, as passed by Rajya Sabha. | Without discussion |

(Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Special Mentions. Those names whom I will call, they can lay it on the Table, if they are present. Shri K.C. Ramamurthy, read the subject and lay it on the Table.

SPECIAL MENTIONS*

SKC/9A

**DEMAND FOR WITHDRAWING DECISION TO IMPOSE
TRANSACTION CHARGES AND MAINTENANCE OF
MINIMUM BALANCE IN BANK ACCOUNTS**

SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY (KARNATAKA): Sir, it is unfortunate that even after four months of demonetization, things remain unsettled as poor, small businessmen and the middle class are still grappling with the effects of demonetization. It is all happening because every day, the Government comes up with a different set of rules and forces the banks to announce steps which are detrimental to and creating problems for the common man.

Recently, the HDFC, ICICI and Axis Banks started charging Rs. 150 per transaction after the fifth transaction in a month. The SBI announced levy of a penalty of Rs. 20-100 for the non-maintenance of a minimum balance of Rs. 5,000 and that of Rs. 50-500 after the fifth transaction, affecting crores of account holders.

***Laid on the Table.**

It is strange that on the one hand, the Government wants to open Jan Dhan Accounts and, on the other, it is denying the poor people entry into the banking system, which is retrograde as there is no scientific rationale to

impose such charges. Secondly, banks are imposing transaction charges without knowing the cost of providing banking services. Shockingly, the RBI has closed its eyes to such important developments in the banking sector. The RBI is of the view that charges should be left to individual banks. I have a strong objection to this as we have not yet reached an era of deregulation. Regulation is needed in the banking sector and that should be done by the RBI.

The principle for taking the country towards a digital economy should be to incentivize digital payments and not penalize cash handling. I would say, if cash transactions are penalized, people would shy away from the banking system.

Hence, I would urge that the RBI must immediately direct all the banks to stop imposing any transaction/ minimum balance charges forthwith.

(Ends)

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (TELANGANA): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

(Ends)

HK/9B

DEMAND FOR ENHANCING AVAILABILITY OF L.P.G. IN NORTH-EASTERN PART OF COUNTRY

SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM (MEGHALAYA): Sir, responding magnanimously to the exhortations of the hon. Prime Minister, a large number of LPG users had voluntarily foregone their LPG subsidy entitlement to enable their lesser privileged fellow citizens below poverty line to avail of enhanced supplies of cooking gas at subsidised rates.

The much hyped *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana*, launched in May 2016, attained its first year target of 1.5 crore beneficiaries increasing the LPG coverage of the country from 61 per cent at the start of the calendar year 2016 to 70 per cent by the end of the year.

Most of the North-Eastern States including Meghalaya enjoy LPG coverage less than the national average. It was, therefore, legitimate to expect that the North-Eastern States will derive much wanted relief in LPG availability under the *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana*, but ironically no LPG connection under the Scheme was issued in any of the North-Eastern States. Hopefully, we, from the North-Eastern States, expect the Centre to take immediate corrective measures under its newly-launched UJJWALA PLUS Scheme targeted at those certified below poverty line families which were left out in the Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011.

To conserve forest cover thereby ensuring ecological balance, the people of North-East hitherto depending upon the traditional cooking fuel, that is, firewood, would be weaned away towards using LPG by making it freely available in the region. (Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Jharna Das Baidya, not present. Shri K.K. Ragesh.

KSK/9C

**DEMAND FOR SETTING UP FUND FOR COIR INDUSTRY AND
INTRODUCING GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT OF COCONUT AND
TUNA FISH IN LAKSHADWEEP**

SHRI K.K. RAGESH (KERALA): Sir, I demand setting up of a fund for coir industry and introduction of Government procurement of coconut and Tuna fish to ensure fair price to Lakshadweep fishermen and coconut growers.

The Government must ensure livelihood to the people of Lakshadweep who live under miserable conditions.

Fishing of Tuna and coconut cultivation are the livelihood of about 65,000 people among the natives of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. But, in the absence of Government procurement, the private middlemen in the market are exploiting the poor fishermen and farmers.

Being highly perishable, the poor fishermen are forced to sell the fish to the middlemen who pay them only pittance, when compared to the market price and demand for fish. Hence, the Central Government should establish a revolving fund with the Administration of Union Territory of Lakshadweep to start Tuna fish procurement at fair price. There should also be facilities of warehouses, marketing and transportation of Tuna fish to enable fetching lucrative prices for the fish which is in demand globally.

The main cultivation here is the coconut. But no proper facilities are ensured to utilize the coconut bye-products, including the husk, the raw material for the coir industry. The Coir Board and the CDB must be directed to intervene for the overall development of the coconut cultivation and wherever possible, coir industrial units need to be established.

To this extent, the Centre should immediately constitute a revolving fund with the Administration of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep and with this, procurement of Tuna fish should be introduced with immediate effect.

(Ends)

(Followed by RL/4C)

-BHS/RL-HMS/6.05/4C

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Prof. M.V. Rajeev Gowda.

GSP/9D

**DEMAND FOR TAKING STEPS FOR UNIVERSALIZATION OF
BASIC EDUCATION AND EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
FOR GIRLS IN COUNTRY**

PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA (KARNATAKA): Sir, the World Economic Forum has released its annual Global Gender Gap Report giving India an overall rank of 87. However, on the education front, India slipped to 124th rank on female literacy rate, with only 63 per cent literate women. Despite the launch of the *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* policy in 2015, the percentage of girls enrolled from classes 1 to 5 remained stagnant at 48.20 per cent. More than 50 per cent of dropouts take place in primary schools. This can be seen as an expected outcome, given the neglect in budgetary allocation.

This year's Budget increased only Rs. 1,305 crores for the National Education Mission, which comprises of the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*, the *Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan* along with teacher training and adult education. However, there has been no concentrated effort or scheme to increase the number of girls in schools.

The impact of this can be seen in the significant drop in the overall enrolment dropping from 13,24,28,440 in 2013 to 12,91,22,784 in 2016.

Moreover, around 63 lakh children aged between six to seventeen years work for more than 180 days in a year. A large portion of this group is

young girls who have been forced to drop out for a variety of reasons, which includes taking care of siblings. This is a travesty in a country that reached unprecedented heights in space exploration and prides itself as a knowledge economy. While we reach for the stars, we should simultaneously ensure the universalization of basic education and equal educational opportunities for girls.

(Ends)

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (TELANGANA): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

(Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. V. Maitreyan, not present.
...(Interruptions)... Shri Vivek Gupta.

SK/9E

**DEMAND FOR EXPEDITING PROCESS FOR OPENING
MORE BANKS IN RURAL AREAS OF WEST BENGAL**

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (WEST BENGAL): Sir, 359 villages in the State of Bengal, having population of more than 5,000, don't have any banking facility, not even Bank Mitras. The Government's financial inclusion policies

have not yet reached these remote villages where rural people are suffering without access to banks.

The RBI follows the policy of peripheral banking, which says if there is a bank branch within five kilometers from the outskirts of a village, that village will be considered banked. And following this, there are only 3,570 rural bank branches to cover 37,469 villages in West Bengal. This provision is causing immense hardships and forcing rural people to travel from one end to another of villages to access the basic banking facilities.

Let us take into account the Government's flagship financial inclusion programme, Jan-Dhan Yojna. If there are not enough bank branches present on ground, reaching the targeted population becomes very difficult for the Government under this scheme.

After the demonetization move, the Government wants everyone to go digital. Without the basic backbone of the financial system, which is the bank, I think, it is not proper to expect the rural population to switch over to newer means of transacting. Also, the basic literacy among people with regard to financial institutions is lacking.

I urge upon the Government to rethink its policies and to hasten up the process of creating more banks in the rural areas of Bengal so that thousands of hardworking Indians are not put in trouble.

(Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Md. Nadimul Haque, not present.

...(Interruptions)... Shri Motilal Vora, not present. ...(Interruptions)... Shri

P.L. Punia.

KLG/9F

**DEMAND FOR MAKING SUITABLE AMENDMENTS IN LAWS
TO CHECK PRACTICE OF UNTOUCHABILITY, INEQUALITY
AND ATROCITIES AGAINST SCs/STs IN EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS IN COUNTRY**

श्री पी. एल. पुनिया (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, भारत में छुआछूत, गैर-बराबरी, उत्पीड़न को रोकने के लिए सर्वप्रथम "नागरिक अधिकार संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1955" लागू किया गया। अनुसूचित जाति, जनजाति पर बढ़ते अत्याचारों को रोकने के लिए अनुसूचित जाति और जनजाति (अत्याचार निवारण) अधिनियम, 1989 लागू किया गया, जिसमें वर्ष 2015 में व्यापक संशोधन किए गए, लेकिन फिर भी छुआछूत, गैर-बराबरी, उत्पीड़न कम होने के बजाय निरंतर बढ़ रहे हैं।

गत वर्षों में उच्च शिक्षण संस्थाओं में ही नहीं बल्कि स्कूलों में भी इनके प्रति छुआछूत, गैर-बराबरी व उत्पीड़न की घटनाएं सामने आई हैं। जब छात्र इनके विरुद्ध

अपनी आवाज उठाते हैं, तो उनकी शिकायतों पर कार्यवाही करने के बजाय उन्हें ही दबाने का प्रयास किया जाता है। कई छात्र बाध्य होकर आत्महत्या कर लेते हैं, तो कई बीच में ही पढ़ाई छोड़ देते हैं। उन्हें मरने के बाद भी न्याय नहीं मिलता।

दलित स्कॉलर रोहित वेमुला को विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में मानसिक रूप से प्रताड़ित करने, केरल में नर्सिंग छात्रा को टॉयलेट क्लीनर पिलाने जैसी घटनाएं पूरे देश ने देखी हैं, जिनकी जितनी भर्त्सना हो उतनी कम है। शिक्षण संस्थाओं में इस प्रकार की शिकायतों के निवारण अथवा रोक के लिए कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है।

अतः आवश्यक है कि शिक्षण संस्थाओं में छुआछूत, गैर-बराबरी, उत्पीड़न को रोकने के लिए या तो "अनुसूचित जाति और जनजाति (अत्याचार निवारण) अधिनियम, 1989" में आवश्यक संशोधन किए जाएं या इस बारे में अलग से कानून बनाकर ऐसी संस्थागत व्यवस्था की जाए ताकि इस वर्ग के छात्रों तथा अध्यापकों के विरुद्ध हो रही घटनाओं पर प्रभावी रोक लग सके और उन्हें न्याय मिल सके।

(समाप्त)

YSR/9G

NEED FOR ADOPTING WEST BENGAL MODEL OF EMPOWERING WOMEN

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (WEST BENGAL): On 8th March we celebrated International Women's Day, a day dedicated to celebrating the social, economic, political and cultural achievements of women. However, India

still has a long way to go in ensuring that women are placed in an equal footing with men. From education to skill development, from increasing employment opportunities to ensuring safety of women, these are just some of the aspects that need to be looked into.

West Bengal has taken massive steps in working towards emancipating women and making them self-reliant. The Kanyashree Scheme was introduced to arrest the dropout rate in schools and prevent early marriage among girl students. More than 30 lakh girls have been enrolled under the scheme, which has garnered national as well as international recognition, including from UNICEF. Bicycles are given to school children in rural areas through the Sabuj Sathi Scheme, and thousands of girls have benefited so far.

More than 27,000 Self-Help Groups have been formed over the last five years, which have over 16 lakh women members. Through the Swabalamban Scheme, training is given on a wide range of livelihood activities, e.g., zari craft, handloom weaving, beautician courses, etc.

As per the latest report of the National Crime Records Bureau, Kolkata is the safest city in India in terms of crimes against women. The Kolkata Police offers martial arts training to schoolgirls, under Project Sukanya, to make them self-reliant when it comes to defending themselves.

Thus, the Central Government must take cognizance of the success story of West Bengal and use it as a model for the entire nation.

(Ends)

VKK/9H

**DEMAND FOR WITHHOLDING RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR
CONSTRUCTION OF POLAVARAM DAM BY NABARD
WITHOUT ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE**

SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY (TELANGANA): Sir, one of the objectives of NABARD is to provide credit for promotion of agriculture, including irrigation. But, there is a caveat. The caveat is, NABARD has to provide credit facility, through Government, only when all clearances and permits relating to project are obtained. If any project fails to obtain either environmental clearances or other clearances, NABARD should not provide credit facility, be it a national project or any other project.

By defeating the very core objective, NABARD released thousands of crores for construction of Polavaram Dam which neither has environmental clearance nor other permits. In fact, the Ministry of Environment and Forest cancelled environmental clearances and issued stop work order on Polavaram Dam. But, conspicuously, NABARD released thousands of crores for Polavaram.

Secondly, there are numerous cases pending before the Supreme Court, the National Green Tribunal and there are inter-State disputes over river Godavari on which Polavaram Dam is being constructed.

I strongly feel that release of funds to Polavaram by NABARD is illegal and gross violation of laws and objectives of NABARD. I also feel that Polavaram should be taken up only when all clearances and permits are obtained, disputes between States are resolved and till last tribal, farmer, woman and *dalit* in queue gets relief due to his displacement and until then, funds that are in pipeline should be stopped.

In view of the above, I request the Ministry of Water Resources to act immediately and ensure that NABARD does not release funds to Polavaram till it gets all clearances.

(Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. on Friday, the 17th March, 2017.

**The House then adjourned at seven minutes
past six of the clock till eleven of the clock
on Friday, the 17th March, 2017.**