









PB-ASC/1N/12.00

**प्रश्न संख्या 151**

**सरदार बलविंदर सिंह भुंडर :** चेयरमैन सर, मैं आपके माध्यम से ऑनरेबल मिनिस्टर साहब से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हमारे देश का किसान producer भी है और consumer भी है। उसके ऊपर पहले ही indirect tax है, लेकिन अब GST के माध्यम से pesticide, fertilizer आदि जो farming implements हैं, उनके ऊपर 5 per cent से लेकर 18 per cent तक tax और लगा दिया है।

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Question, please.

**सरदार बलविंदर सिंह भुंडर :** जो किसान पहले ही सुसाइड कर रहा है, उसके ऊपर अब और लोड पड़ रहा है, तो क्या मंत्री जी उनको कोई रिलीफ देने वाले हैं?

**श्री अरुण जेटली :** सभापति जी, इस प्रकार के जितने भी items हैं, समय-समय पर जो representations आते हैं, वे GST Council के सामने आते हैं। Council ने एक्सपर्ट्स अधिकारियों की एक फिटमेंट कमेटी बनाई हुई है, ये representations उसके सामने जाते हैं। कमेटी इसको consider करती है और फिर ये Council के सामने आते हैं। पहले भी इस तरह के कई विषय आए हैं, कृषि के अंदर जिन items का प्रयोग होता है और जो Council के सामने आए हैं, तो Council ने उनको consider करके कम किया है। यदि भविष्य में भी इस प्रकार के representations आएंगे, तो यह निर्णय Council के अधिकार क्षेत्र में आएगा।

**Q. No. 151 (contd.)**

**सरदार बलविंदर सिंह भुंडर :** सर, मैं ऑनरेबल मिनिस्टर से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो देश के up to 5 करोड़ स्मॉल बिजनेसमैन हैं, अब उनको सिर्फ यही इजाज़त है कि वे क्वार्टरली रिटर्न फाइल कर सकते हैं।

मैं एक बात तो यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जब वे क्वार्टरली रिटर्न फाइल कर सकते हैं, तो क्या उनका tax monthly जमा करने के बजाय, क्वार्टरली जमा करा सकते हैं?

मैं दूसरी बात यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि मेरे पास एक रिपोर्ट आई कि इसी प्रॉब्लम की वजह से जो उनके टॉर्गेट्स हैं, वे अपने टॉर्गेट्स एचीव नहीं कर सके। अगर आप इनकी प्रॉब्लम्स को दूर करेंगे, तो वे टॉर्गेट्स भी एचीव हो जाएंगे। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या up to 5 करोड़ बिजनेसमैन को कोई रिलीफ देने की योजना है?

**श्री अरुण जेटली :** टैक्स क्वार्टरली दिया, यह विषय काउंसिल के सामने आया था और यह विचार था तथा राज्यों का भी यह विचार था, यह संभव इसलिए नहीं है कि हर राज्य को जो राजस्व चाहिए वह हर महीने के बेस पर चाहिए। राज्य सरकारों के जो खर्चे होते हैं और जो केन्द्र सरकार के खर्चे होते हैं, वे हर महीने के हिसाब से होते हैं ... (व्यवधान)....

**सरदार बलविंदर सिंह भुंडर :** सर, इस बार भी इसमें ... (व्यवधान)....

**श्री सभापति :** प्लीज़, प्लीज़।

**Q. No. 151 (contd.)**

**श्री अरुण जेटली :** टैक्स तो चाहे स्मॉल से आये और बिग से आये, खर्चा तीन महीने की प्रतीक्षा नहीं करता है। सरकारी कर्मचारी को जो वेतन दिया जाता है, वह तीन महीने बाद नहीं दिया जा सकता, हर महीने देना पड़ता है। इसलिए टैक्सेशन भी हर महीने आता रहे, यह अपने आप में आवश्यक है।

**SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:** The hon. Minister has already said, the Committee shall recommend changes to be made in the process of filing of returns in GST.' I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether all the local artisans those who are making some sort of copper materials, handicrafts and all these things will be included in this.

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Sir, as far as various trades or services are concerned, they would certainly come within the categories of the tariff fixation which has separately taken place. Now up to twenty lakh of rupees, there is a complete exemption and therefore those who are within the twenty lakhs rupees would be exempted. If they are more than that, then depending on what is the nature of trade they are in, they would have to pay the tax according to the trade.

(Contd. by 1o/SKC)

SKC-LP/10/12.05

**Q. No. 151 (contd.)**

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY (contd.):** The Committee which has been referred to in the reply is not a committee which is dealing with tariffs; it is a Committee which is dealing with the procedure. The question of procedure which they are dealing with is, whether this quarterly return which has been made applicable to those with a turnover of Rs. 1.5 crore and less, can be expanded further or not so that there is an ease as far as compliance is concerned.

**SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:** Sir, Section 149 of the CGST Act provides that every registered entity under the Act may be assigned a ranking depending upon the GST payment. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether the Government has started giving ratings and, if so, what are the factors that determine the score?

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Sir, the question that the hon. Member has raised does not relate to this particular question because this deals with the compliance itself. But, to the best of what I could recollect, that process has still not started. Still, I would cross-check it and inform the Member accordingly.



**Q. No. 151 (contd.)**

**SHRI ANIL DESAI:** Sir, through YOU, I would like to know this from the hon. Finance Minister. The GST, the greatest indirect tax reform which has taken place, has been yielding good results. But the basic theme on which this had relied upon was 'one nation-one tax'. Today, we have a lot many bands, from five to 12, 18, 27 plus. Is the Government contemplating asking the GST Council to rationalize it and bring it under one or two bands so that it becomes much easier as far as compliance is concerned?

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Sir, this question had risen earlier also. With regard to one commodity or one service, there would be one tax; but with regard to all kinds of commodities or goods to have a single rate of taxation, even when GST was approved in this House and the other House, it was made clear that that would not be possible to be done immediately. There is a single rate of taxation in several countries, but these are those countries which don't have people who live below the poverty line. India has such large disparities and people use different commodities. For instance, food items in India would always be either zero rated, or rated at the lowest slab of five per cent. At the same time, there would be luxury items which can't be put in the same slab as food. So, the question of having one slab-rate

**Q. No. 151 (contd.)**

itself doesn't arise. Already the process of rationalization has begun and, if the hon. Member notes, we have the 28 per cent slab in which the standard items were put, those which were earlier in the standard rate of Central Excise and the VAT itself. Now, most of those items have already been brought down to the 18 per cent slab-rate. So, that process of rationalization has begun. That is ongoing exercise, which I am quite certain would continue.

(Ends)









**Q. No. 152**

**SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:** Hon. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the rating, as per Fitch's 2018 Outlook on Asia-Pacific Utilities of Indian renewable energy companies was not backed by detailed analysis and hence, cannot be considered, while Ernst and Young has ranked India as second on Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) in October, 2017. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has examined the Report of Ernst and Young and, if so, whether the same is backed by a fairly detailed analysis.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The question has to be brief and the answer has to be reasonably brief.

**SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH:** Sir, in the reply it has been made clear that the Report of Fitch does not appear to be founded on facts. They have cited three companies for having come to the conclusion that green companies or the renewable energy companies in India are weak. Now, all the three companies which have been cited have nothing to do with renewable energy.

(CONTD. BY HK/1P)

HK/1P/12.10

**Q. No. 152 (contd.)**

**SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH (CONTD.):** The National Thermal Power Corporation is primarily a thermal power generating company and it is one of the best companies in the world. Its net worth is Rs.96,000 crore and the profit of the NTPC last year was about Rs.12,300 crore. So, the fact is that NTPC is not a renewal energy company and, in any case, it is not a weak company. They have rated it 'BBB', which is a lower grade. Similarly, Power Grid is one of the biggest transmission utilities in the world. Its profit last year was about Rs.9,000 crore. So, it cannot be called a weak company. In any case, Power Grid is a transmission company. It does not deal with renewal energy at all.

**SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:** Sir, India has set a target of producing 40 per cent of total energy needs through renewal energy by 2030. Renewal energy accounted for 18.37 of the total installed power capacity in India in 2017. The reply given by the hon. Minister does not match with this figure. The State of Tamil Nadu is a leading State in producing renewal energy. So, we should support such States. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon.



**Q. No. 152 (contd.)**

Minister the steps taken to accelerate the growth of renewal energy to match with the targeted figure.

**SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH:** Sir, the rate of growth of renewal energy in India has been one of the fastest in the world. Our current installed capacity, as of November, is 62,000 megawatts and under installation is 6,500 megawatts. So, that will make it about 69,000 megawatts. Apart from that, we already bid out about 14,000 megawatts last year. If we add that 14,000 megawatts, taking into account the gestation period of 18 months, it will go up to 84,000 megawatts and next year again we are going to bid out about 30,000 or 40,000 megawatts. Our target is about 1,75,000 megawatts and we will achieve it easily. We will achieve it before 2022. ...(Interruptions)...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The last supplementary question was with reference to Tamil Nadu.

**SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH:** Sir, Tamil Nadu has a strong base of renewal energy. I don't have exact figures of Tamil Nadu right now. But so far as the growth is concerned and so far as encouragement given to renewal energy throughout the country is concerned, we have policies which give encouragement to renewal energy and that is why the growth of renewal

**Q. No. 152 (contd.)**

energy in India is one of the fastest in the world. In fact, the Renewal Energy Country Attractiveness Index placed India at the second place after China.

**SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:** Sir, I must compliment the Government, past and the present, for making renewal energy the cornerstone of our policy for future electricity generation and the speed with which we have been growing is very commendable, as you rightly said just second to China. The issue here is about the hardware. The cost of renewal energy has been coming down progressively over the years because we have been able to make a lot of equipment ourselves within the country. Solar energy is the most important aspect of the renewal energy programme. I must point out to the hon. Minister that silicon wafers which are the core of the solar panels, which are being put up in the country without exception, are being imported and that is why all the solar panels which you are putting up are basically assembled in India. There was a programme, and I remember as a Minister of Heavy Industries, in which BHEL was to set up a silicon wafer manufacturing facility in India which would facilitate not only the manufacturers of solar panels but bring down the tariff because the core issue of this question is to bring down the tariff.

**Q. No. 152 (contd.)**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** What is your question?

**SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:** Sir, the question is: Is silicon wafer manufacturing, which is a core item required for manufacturing of solar panels, going to be produced in India shortly or soon enough so that we can expand our programme and to make it more cost-effective?

(Followed by KSK/1Q)

KSK/AKG/12.15/1Q

**SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH:** Sir, the hon. Member is right. About 80 per cent of our solar panels, etc., are imported from China, Taiwan and countries like that. Now, we have a programme for encouraging 'Make in India' right from polysilicon onwards to wafers, panels and modules. We have issued an Expression of Interest for 20,000 MW. Only those companies can participate which are willing to set up manufacturing facilities from polysilicon onwards here. We did this after discussions with the industry. The industry said that we should provide them the market and they will bring the manufacturing. So, we have provided them the market. We have issued the Expression of Interest. I am quite sure that this will fructify.

**Q. No. 152 (contd.)**

**SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:** This is something which was already going to be set up, but stopped from being set up. So, please look into that.

**श्री बसावाराज पाटिल :** माननीय सभापति जी, इस प्रकार का ऐतिहासिक लक्ष्य प्राप्त करने के लिए सरकार ने जो काम किया है, इसको प्राप्त करने के लिए ऐसे कौन से financial initiatives लिए गए, जिनके कारण सरकार इस achievement को पाने में सफल हुई है?

**श्री राज कुमार सिंह :** सर, हमारी दो-तीन योजनाएँ हैं, जिनके अन्तर्गत हमारी renewable energy का expansion हो रहा है। एक तो हमने accelerated depreciation दिया है। हमने 40 percent accelerated depreciation दिया है। पहले यह 80 परसेंट था, अब यह 40 परसेंट हो गया है, लेकिन यह भी ठीक है। इसके अतिरिक्त हमारी एक VGF scheme है। हालाँकि अभी स्थिति यह है कि competitive rates इतने कम आ गए हैं कि अब VGF की जरूरत नहीं पड़ रही है। अभी हमने solar energy के लिए जो bid की है, वह 2 रुपए 45 पैसे प्रति यूनिट आ गई है और wind energy के लिए यह 2 रुपए 65 पैसे प्रति यूनिट आ गई है। इसलिए rates इतने कम हो गए हैं कि अब VGF की जरूरत नहीं है। इसके अतिरिक्त हमारी एक 'Solar Park Scheme' है, जिसके अन्तर्गत हम 40 हजार मेगावाट के लिए Solar Park set up कर रहे हैं, जिसमें 21 हजार मेगावाट का Solar Park set up हो गया है। Park set up करने के लिए हम funds देते हैं, जिसके अन्तर्गत यह financial initiative आ रहा है।

**Q. No. 152 (contd.)**

**SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Minister of New and Renewable Energy whether the Union Government would encourage the companies coming forward to produce energy from municipal solid waste through PPP model because some of the companies are not coming forward because of the huge investments but less prospects. So, I would like to know whether the Government will encourage those companies.

**SHRI RAJ KUMAR SINGH:** Sir, we have a subsidy scheme for generation of energy based on municipal solid waste. There are different rates of subsidy for different capacities. Apart from that, whatever power is generated, even though the cost of power, which is generated, is high at about six rupees per unit, it is a 'must run'. That means the DISCOMS have to buy it. So, this scheme is already there, and under this scheme, a number of waste-to-energy plants have been set up.

(Ends)











**Q. No. 153**

**DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will ask only one supplementary. I would like to say that Muthuramalingam Thevar was a great freedom fighter, and, perhaps, he is being ignored because he was with Subhash Chandra Bose. I made the effort in the late 90s after I got elected from Madurai. This matter has been pending since then, although the statue of Muthuramalingam Thevar has been set up, thanks to the Lok Sabha Committee. Mr. Praful Patel is here. He had also made efforts, but the local Government was not in favour. But now that we have a new Government in Tamil Nadu, will the hon. Minister again take up what is pending since long?

**SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI:** Sir, this request has been pending for some time, but the Tamil Nadu Government, in 2001 and again in 2005, have said that no public buildings, places or corporations in Tamil Nadu will be named after any political leader, past or present. This is a very strong thing that has come from that Government. We are a federal country.

**DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:** Then, I will ask my second supplementary. Now, there is a new Government in Tamil Nadu. There is nothing

**Q. No. 153 (contd.)**

constitutional about what the previous Government had said. Let the new Government be asked whether they are ready to pass a Resolution and send it to the Central Government.

**SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI:** Since it has been pending for a very, very long time, the new Government can send a proposal. We have nothing against it. We have tremendous respect for Thevarji. His work and his life have been exemplary and we, as Indians, will have to respect our elders.

(Followed by 1R – GSP)

GSP-SCH/12.20/1R

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The point is that Shri Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar is one of the revolutionary names in south India. There is universal acclamation about his personality and the contribution he made in those days when he joined hands with Shri Subhash Chandra Bose. The suggestion is that if the State Government has not sent it, will the Centre ask the State if they have changed their stand to think on those lines?  
...(Interruptions)...

Q. No. 153 (contd.)

**SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI:** Sir, we can make an enquiry from the State Government.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Now, Shrimati Ambika Soni. ...(Interruptions).. Please.

**SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:** Let me say something since it is important. ...(Interruptions)...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** When ex-Ministers also are equally knowledgeable like the present Ministers, it is a problem sometimes. ...(Interruptions)...

**SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:** Sir, just because my name was mentioned, I wish to clarify. ...(Interruptions)...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I will give you an opportunity. ...(Interruptions)...

**SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:** Sir, a similar request has been pending for the international airport situated at Chandigarh. The Punjab Government had asked for it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Ambika ji, this question is specifically related to Madurai Airport.

**SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:** But, Sir, it is a question of naming or renaming an airport. Our airport has been without a name for the last one-and-a-half years. I myself have raised it on the floor of the House. I have an assurance

**Q. No. 153 (contd.)**

from the present Government that this would be taken care of. There was no problem with regard to the name of *Shaheed-e-Azam, Bhagat Singh* but still there is no movement. It won't make an airport economically unviable. This has been a long-pending demand.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** All right but it is a suggestion.

**SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:** Sir, both Punjab and Haryana Governments have supported it.

**SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:** Yes, both Punjab and Haryana Governments have supported it.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I hope, the hon. Minister will take note of the suggestion. ... (Interruptions) ... Please. Yes, do you wish to say something? Please.

**SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI:** Sir, there are nine proposals of different airports all over the country of naming or renaming. We are looking at it.

**SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:** But, Sir, there should be a time-frame for it. ... (Interruptions) ...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Yes, Mr. Patel, what is the issue? Is it a clarification or you want to give some... ... (Interruptions) ...

**Q. No. 153 (contd.)**

**SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:** I am not asking any supplementary. Sir, it is a clarification since my name was taken by hon. Member, Swamy ji. I remember that during the *bhoomi puja* and, then, subsequently, on the inauguration of new terminal of Madurai Airport -- the State Government was then represented by the Chief Minister, Dr. Kalaingar -- there was a suggestion which came up. I do not know about the resolution of the Tamil Nadu Assembly but it was so decided that any naming of airport being a Central Government issue to be approved by the Union Cabinet, this could be taken up at Union Cabinet level. I do not remember about any resolution which the Chief Minister brought to my notice. If that be the case, I am not trying to argue to the contrary. ...(Interruptions)...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. ...(Interruptions)... Thank you. ...(Interruptions)...

**SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:** If this stand is still taken... ...(Interruptions)... This stand still can be taken up. ...(Interruptions)... I am not involved in the politics of Tamil Nadu.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** No further discussion, please. ...(Interruptions)... I allowed you to seek a clarification. ...(Interruptions)...

**Q. No. 153 (contd.)**

**SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:** Sir, I just wanted to bring it to your notice.  
...(Interruptions)...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Now, hon. Minister.

**SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI:** Sir, the final decision is of the Union Cabinet. ...(Interruptions)...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** See, the Minister has quoted the Tamil Nadu State Government's Resolution, there is a background to this. ...(Interruptions)...

**SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:** But, Sir, ...(Interruptions)...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Please. You have to check the records. Afterwards, there will be a problem if you say no to something and he brings out the Resolution. In order to move forward, my suggestion is that the Resolution to some extent was reasonable for the simple reason that across the country, everybody, every ruling party is naming these after their leaders or persons who are nearer to them. Subsequently, another Government comes and tries to change these names, which creates controversies, agitations and counter-agitations. That was the larger context. But Shri Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar is above politics. His name is immortal

**Q. No. 153 (contd.)**

that way. Please keep that in mind. ...(Interruptions)... Now, Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati.

**KUMARI SELJA:** Sir, what I want to say is that...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** No second supplementary... (Interruptions)...

**KUMARI SELJA:** It is not a supplementary. ...(Interruptions)...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Selja ji, please. ...(Interruptions)... No, no. This is not the way. Ambika ji is very senior. I know her, I respect her and that is why immediately I called her though the question is about Madurai Airport. ...(Interruptions)...

**DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, please allow half-an-hour discussion on this subject.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon. Members, if you are interested in having a discussion on naming airports, please give a separate notice, I will consider it.

**SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:** Sir, Aurangabad is a big city in Maharashtra. Unofficially, Aurangabad is always called Chhatrapati Sambhaji Raje Nagar. Chhatrapati Sambhaji Raje is the son of Chhatrapati Shivaji



**Q. No. 153 (contd.)**

Maharaj. And, even the Aurangabad Airport is unofficially called as Sambhaji Raje Nagar Airport.

(Contd. by SK/1S)

SK-RPM/1S/12.25

**SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI (contd.):** So, I would like to request the hon. Minister if, like Madurai, ...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Same thing again. He has already answered that question. Please sit down. ..(Interruptions)..

**SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:** Sir, *Shaeed-e-Azam*, Bhagat Singh ..(Interruptions)..

**SHRI LA. GANESAN:** Sir, the Tamil Nadu Government has issued a circular not to name on any political leaders. The hon. Chairman has rightly stated that Muthuramalingam Thevar should not be considered only as a political leader. He was a nationalist to the core. So, considering the national feeling, I appeal to one and all, irrespective of party affiliation, caste affiliation, to support it. ..(Interruptions)..

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Thank you for your suggestion. He will keep it in mind.

Now, Question No. 154.

(Ends)









**Q. No. 154**

**SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:** Sir, the cryptocurrencies have been compared to the pyramid schemes and the economic bubbles which have affected a lot of people who joined that. So, I would like to know whether there is any consumer protection available to the people who are already using cryptocurrencies. Some agencies say that they will accept Bitcoins. So, what is the Government planning to protect people?

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Sir, since 24<sup>th</sup> December, 2013, both the Reserve Bank of India and the Government of India have consistently maintained a position and have made it public repeatedly that this is not a lawful legal tender in India. Therefore, that protection is not available. It is operating online. That is a separate matter. There have been expert groups which have been set up to see how to deal with this situation whose report is now awaited. But this is not a legal tender and this is the clear position which has been set out even as late as the 29<sup>th</sup> of December by the Government of India in its Press Release. So, from 2013 to 2017, this has consistently been the position of both the Central Bank and the Government.

**SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:** I would like to know whether the Government is aware of the threat of cryptocurrencies being used for illegal purposes. It

**Q. No. 154 (contd.)**

has been found that some terrorist groups are also finding it very convenient to use Bitcoins. So, what are the measures taken by the Government to stop this? I would also like to know if you have any data on the crimes.

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Sir, one of the features of cryptocurrencies has been that there is a lack of dependence on the State and that this functions with a certain amount of anonymity. It functions within the virtual community which is created and enjoys the trust of that virtual community itself. It operates through blogs; it operates through WhatsApp groups etc. There are several kinds of cryptocurrencies. In fact, there are 785 virtual currencies all over the world which are today in operation. There are about 11 such online exchanges which have been identified in India. There was an inter-Departmental Committee which was set up in the year 2016. That examined the matter and decided that certain cautions be taken and people at different levels, those who are engaged in this activity, be given a caution or warning that there is no lawful protection, which was accordingly done. Now, regarding how in future it is to be dealt with in India, there is an expert group under the Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, which is functioning, whose report is now awaited.

**Q. No. 154 (contd.)**

**SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR:** Sir, since the Finance Minister has clarified that cryptocurrencies are not legal tender and I am assuming he also means that it is, therefore, illegal, would he consider giving immediate directions to banks, credit card companies, etc., while the Committee is still doing its work, to prohibit purchases and transactions in cryptocurrencies with immediate effect?

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Sir, the Government is awaiting the report of the expert group as to what are the steps to be taken, the reason being that there are such large numbers, as I mentioned, of cryptocurrencies which are globally operating and they can operate from any part of the world because they virtually operate in the virtual group itself. Therefore, rather than taking any actions immediately, we are awaiting that report and once that report comes, only then the measured steps which are to be taken in this regard would be taken.

(Followed by PSV/1T)

PSV-YSR/1T/12.30

**श्री अमर सिंह:** सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहूँगा, मैं बिना नाम लिये कहना चाहूँगा कि बहुत बड़े-बड़े लोग, जो करोड़ों रुपये



**Q. No. 154 (contd.)**

प्रचार से कमाते हैं, वे लोग भी बिटकॉइन के धंधे में शामिल हैं। उनके नाम पनामा और पैराडाइज़ जैसे स्कैंडल्स में भी आये हैं। हमारे पड़ोसी देश में-- आप कहते हैं कि यह लीगल टेंडर नहीं है, यानी यह जाली नोट की तरह है और बगल के देश में तथा विश्व के कई देशों के राष्ट्राध्यक्ष अपना पद भी खो बैठे हैं, लेकिन न तो पनामा में कुछ होता है, न पैराडाइज़ में कुछ होता है और न ही बिटकॉइन में कुछ होता है।

**श्री सभापति:** आप सवाल पूछिए।

**श्री अमर सिंह:** क्या आप ऐसे लोगों के विरुद्ध कोई punitive action लेने की कृपा करेंगे या कोई ऐसा प्रावधान बना रहे हैं अथवा आप कमेटी की रिपोर्ट की प्रतीक्षा में हैं?

**श्री अरुण जेटली:** सभापति जी, ये दोनों विषय अलग-अलग हैं। जहाँ तक पनामा और पैराडाइज़ का विषय है, उनमें जिन लोगों के या जिन entities के नाम आये थे, उनके सम्बन्ध में एकदम उपयुक्त जाँच भी हुई है। उनमें से जिन लोगों के अकाउंट्स उसमें गैर-कानूनी पाये गये, उनके खिलाफ जो-जो कार्रवाई कानून में है, यानी adjudication, assessment, criminal law action इत्यादि है, उन कानूनों के हिसाब से वह कार्रवाई उनके खिलाफ हो रही है।

जहाँ तक बिटकॉइन का सवाल है, तो क्योंकि पूरे विश्व के अन्दर यह एक नयी परिस्थिति पैदा हुई है और यह केवल भारत के ही सामने चुनौती नहीं है, तो पूरे विश्व का अनुभव भी देखते हुए भारत को इसको किस तरीके से निपटना है, इसके सम्बन्ध में

**Q. No. 154 (contd.)**

भी, जैसा मैंने पहले प्रश्न के उत्तर में कहा कि सरकार इस विषय में अध्ययन कर रही है कि हम क्या कार्रवाई कर सकते हैं।

**SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU:** Respected Chairman, as the Finance Minister rightly observed, this is a virtual platform. But what is hacking to the website on the internet and cyber platform, the cryptocurrency is to the currency. This is already creeping into transactions of cyber platform economies. The cryptocurrencies are a danger to the economy be it Bitcoin or be it Ethereum or be it Ripple. The latest entry in 2017 was of Ripple. The cryptocurrency is creating a danger like hacking situation to the economic platforms and the transactions of the trade. Your Committee is already in place and looking into the dangers. Since the advanced nations the world over have identified the cryptocurrency as a threat, what are the latest measures that you have come to know and what are the things that you are going to put in place to contain them immediately even before the Committee Report comes to you because already 11 per cent of the currency transactions have crept in with Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies?

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Sir, the hon. Member is right when he says that being a virtual currency there is no authorised platform as such supported

**Q. No. 154 (contd.)**

by any assets which supports this and therefore the dangers such as hacking, loss of passwords, etc., are there. These are all dangers and inherent risks which are attached to it. Having preliminarily examined this matter, whatever cautions are to be given, both, the Reserve Bank of India and the Government, have been giving them from time to time to the people that those who deal with it deal with it at their own risk and peril.

As far as what other steps are to be taken, after the matter is examined by the Expert Groups, judging how other countries deal with it and learning from the global experience, it is only then that we will be able to, in near future, take our future steps in the matter.

(Ends)



















**प्रश्न संख्या 155**

**श्री नीरज शेखर:** सभापति जी, मेरा प्रश्न बड़ा क्लियर था। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने दिसम्बर के महीने में एक जगह भाषण देते हुए कहा था कि जो एनपीए है, यह यूपीए सरकार का सबसे बड़ा स्कैम है, इसीलिए मैंने अपना यह प्रश्न पूछा था। जब इस देश के माननीय प्रधान मंत्री बोल रहे हैं कि यह सबसे बड़ा स्कैम है, तो उसके बारे में सरकार ने क्या किया?

(1यू/वीएनके पर जारी)

VNK-VKK/1U/12.35

**श्री नीरज शेखर (क्रमागत) :** क्या इसके लिए कोई जांच कमेटी बनाई है, कोई सीबीआई इन्क्वायरी कराई है? आज तक तो हमारे एक बहुत बड़े अधिकारी हैं, जिन्होंने बहुत घोटालों की जांच की है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि एनपीए जो 2014 में 2 लाख करोड़ रुपए था, वह आज 9 लाख करोड़ रुपए हो गया है, क्या सरकार इस पर कोई कदम उठा रही है? इस देश के लोग यह जानना चाहते हैं कि यह इस तरह से क्यों बढ़ता जा रहा है? मैं यह मानता हूँ कि सरकार यह कह रही है कि यह यूपीए के समय का है।

**श्री सभापति :** कृपया आप अपना प्रश्न पूछिए।

**श्री नीरज शेखर :** सर, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो एनपीए 2014 में 2 लाख करोड़ रुपए था, वह आज 9 लाख करोड़ रुपए हो गया है, यह कहां जा रहा है? इस देश के

**Q. No. 155 (contd.)**

लोग यह जानना चाहते हैं कि इसके लिए क्या जांच हो रही है, क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

**श्री अरुण जेटली :** सभापति जी, जहां तक यह संख्या बढ़ने का प्रश्न है, इसके बारे में मैं स्पष्ट कर दूं कि बैंकों का टोटल एनपीए जो 2014 में था, उसके पीछे यह पाया गया कि कई बैंक अपने लोन को बार-बार evergreen करते थे। उसी लोन को दोबारा आगे बढ़ाते जाते थे और जिसकी वजह से पुस्तकों के अंदर तो वह लोन होता था, लेकिन asset वास्तविकता में एक प्रकार से non-performing हो चुका था, इसलिए सन् 2015 में रिज़र्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया ने हर बैंक का asset quality review किया और उसके बाद पाया गया कि ये जो actual accounts हैं, जो किताबों के अंदर performing दिखते हैं, वास्तविकता में वे performing नहीं हैं, क्योंकि उसमें ब्याज भी नहीं दे पा रहे हैं। इनको एक प्रकार से केवल standardize किया जा रहा है और इनको एनपीए के अंदर गिनना चाहिए। इस प्रकार से उसको छुपाने की बजाय उनको स्पष्टता से स्पष्ट करके सामने दिखा दिया गया, संख्या बढ़ने का यह पहला कारण था।

इसके पीछे दूसरा कारण था कि क्योंकि समय बीतता है, तो ब्याज भी बढ़ता जाता है, तो ब्याज लगने से लोन की संख्या भी बढ़ती है, तो यह इसका कारण था। अब बैंकों ने aggressive lending की है, risk assessment ठीक नहीं किया, कहीं wilful defaults हुए। हर अकाउंट की कहानी अपनी अलग प्रकार की होती है और उस अकाउंट के संबंध में जो भी कानून के तहत कार्रवाई की जा सकती है, वह कार्रवाई है।

**Q. No. 155 (contd.)**

जहां पर criminal liability फिक्स हो सकती थी, वह criminal liability fixed है और जहां business losses वगैरह इत्यादि कारण हैं, वहां पर जो रिकवरी की प्रक्रिया है या उसको अपने IBC code के तहत insolvent declare करना है और उसके बाद उसके अकाउंट के संबंध में आगे जो कानूनी प्रक्रिया बढ़नी है, वह कार्रवाई भी आगे चल रही है।

**श्री सभापति :** कृपया आप अपना second supplementary पूछिए।

**श्री नीरज शेखर :** सर, मैंने तो यह पूछा था कि यह स्कैम है या नहीं है?

**श्री सभापति :** कृपया आप अपना second supplementary पूछिए।

**श्री नीरज शेखर :** सर, मेरा दूसरा प्रश्न यह है कि मैं वित्त विभाग का इतना बड़ा ज्ञाता नहीं हूँ, लेकिन जो हम लोग समाचार-पत्रों में पढ़ते हैं कि बैंकों ने कॉर्पोरेट सेक्टर्स का 55 हजार करोड़ रुपए का लोन माफ कर दिया, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कॉर्पोरेट लोगों का ऋण माफ हो जाता है, एनपीए हो जाता है, खत्म हो जाता है, लेकिन जब किसानों के लोन को माफ करने की बात आती है, तो वित्त मंत्री जी कहते हैं कि चूंकि हमारे पास पैसा नहीं है, इसलिए उनका ऋण माफ नहीं हो सकता है, तो यह दोहरी नीति क्यों है? किसानों के लिए अलग नीति और कॉर्पोरेट के लिए अलग नीति क्यों है?

**Q. No. 155 (contd.)**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** You have raised the issue. Please get the answer. ... (Interruptions)... If you are not satisfied, as I told you yesterday, you can give notice to me and then there is a mechanism for that.

**श्री अरुण जेटली :** सभापति जी, मैं स्पष्ट कर दूँ कि न तो सरकार, न कोई बैंक किसी कॉर्पोरेट का लोन माफ करती है।

**श्री नीरज शेखर :** जैसे आप कहते हैं कि ... (व्यवधान)...

**श्री सभापति :** प्लीज़, प्लीज़, ऐसे बीच में नहीं होता है। कृपया आप पहले जवाब सुनिए।

**श्री अरुण जेटली :** सर, यह लोन कोई माफ नहीं करते, इसलिए माननीय सदस्य पहले मेरे उत्तर को समझ लें। इसके लिए मुझे केवल दो मिनट चाहिए।

कुछ समय के बाद, चार साल के बाद जब लोन non-performing में रहता है और उसकी रिकवरी की संभावना कम होती है, तो उसकी category को बदल देते हैं। जहां तक जिससे ऋण वसूल करना होता है, उसके खिलाफ रिकवरी की liability रहती है, उसकी जिम्मेवारी नहीं जाती है, लेकिन बैंक अपनी provisioning कर देता है ताकि उसको उस अकाउंट के संबंध में इनकम टैक्स में उस प्रकार की छूट मिल जाए, इस प्रकार से qua the borrower, the liability remains. उसको कोई माफी नहीं मिलती, लेकिन बैंक, अपनी खाते के अंदर जो एंट्री होती है, उसको वह बदल देता है ताकि बैंक को इनकम टैक्स के हिसाब से इनकम टैक्स प्रोसीडिंग में उसका लाभ मिल

**Q. No. 155 (contd.)**

जाए, केवल इतना अंतर है और इसलिए हम अपने मन में से यह निकाल दें कि सरकार ने या बैंकों ने वह 55 हजार करोड़ रुपए किसी का माफ किया।

(1W/NKR-RL पर आगे)

-VKK/RL-NKR/12.40/1W

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Now, Shri D. Raja. ...(Interruptions)...

**श्री नीरज शेखर :** मेरा प्रश्न यह नहीं था। ..(व्यवधान)..

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Shri Neeraj Shekhar, yesterday also, you raised the issue. If you are not satisfied with the answer or if you feel, the answer is wrong, you can write to me and there is a remedy. Now, Shri D. Raja.

**SHRI D. RAJA:** Sir, some time back, the All India Bank Employees Association came out with a list of wilful defaulters. My question is very simple and straightforward. Why can't the Government reveal the names of wilful defaulters? Why can't the Government treat it as a criminal offence and proceed accordingly?

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** The names of wilful defaulters are regularly given by the banks itself. Let us again get this misconception out. As far as normal banking transactions are concerned, there is a certain amount of



**Q. No. 155 (contd.)**

confidentiality. For instance, the bank cannot disclose your account or my account to anybody in the public domain. But, as far as wilful defaulters are concerned, that is a separate category with regard to which no secrecy is maintained.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Please, please, Nandaji, please. ...(Interruptions)... Now, Shri P. Chidambaram.

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM:** Sir, this NPA debate will never end. The original question was, if loans were performing as on 31/3/2014, if they have become non-performing later, then, is that a scam or is the NPA issue a scam? The hon. Member says that the hon. Minister's answer is not a direct answer. Be that as it may, I am asking a very specific question. The RBI is a regulator. The RBI audits every bank, at least, once a year, and perhaps more often. The RBI found a certain loan as performing. In the Asset Quality Review, the RBI finds that the loan is non-performing. The Minister says that earlier the regulation was relaxed and the Asset Quality Review made the regulations stricter. I accept that.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** What is your question now, please?

**Q. No. 155 (contd.)**

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM:** My question now is, does the Minister have data now or if he does not have, will he furnish it to the House, how many loans given by banks after 1/4/2014 have become NPA today?

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Obviously, the question doesn't relate to loans given with regard to particular dates but it is absolutely clear that bulk of these NPAs have arisen out of loans which were given prior to 1/4/2014.  
...(Interruptions)...

**श्री नीरज शेखर :** सर,..(व्यवधान)..

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Now, Shri Naresh Gujral. ...(Interruptions)... Please, please. ...(Interruptions)... The moment we try to... ...(Interruptions)... नीरज शेखर जी, आपका नाम रिकॉर्ड में नहीं जाएगा। ..... You are a youngster; you have to come up in life. ...(Interruptions)... Please, ...(Interruptions)...

**SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:** I am very old, Sir. ...(Interruptions)... I am 50 years old.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** You are old. ...(Interruptions)... This is a new definition he is giving that a person of 50 years is old. Then, what about 70-plus people?  
...(Interruptions)... Now, Shri Naresh Gujral.

**Q. No. 155 (contd.)**

**SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:** Sir, it is a fact that there has been a huge increase in NPAs in the country and recent figures indicate that the figure could be closer to 10 lakh crores of rupees. Sir, in the newspapers and in the media, it has been reported that ten to twelve business houses have been responsible for almost 60 to 70 per cent of the NPAs which means there is a huge concentration of risk in just a few hands which is very abnormal and since it is abnormal, my main question is, why don't you order a forensic audit of, at least, 10 largest NPAs of each bank? I have been raising this demand for the last so many years that why can't the Government order or the RBI order a forensic audit so that then it would be seen, if there was a fraud; if money was diverted or if undue pressure was put on the banks to give loans to certain parties. Thank you, Sir.

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Sir, one thing is absolutely clear as the hon. Member says,...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Please, please. ...(Interruptions)... No running commentary.

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** There has been, as mentioned in the reply, an aggressive lending practice and, at times, laxity and, at times, lack of risk

**Q. No. 155 (contd.)**

assessment as far as grant of loans are concerned and that is why, a very large number of these loans became NPAs.

(CONTD. BY DC/1X)

-RL/DC-DS/1X/12.45

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY (CONTD.):** And many of them are not backed by adequate securities also. That is actually a fact. But then, you cannot have a fishing and roving inquiry into a transaction to find out what went wrong. Whenever specific facts have come to the notice, as far as the banking industry is concerned, both the regulators, the banks and other investigating agencies, accordingly, have been taking actions against them from time to time. ....(Interruptions)...

**SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:** No, no. You cannot cherry-pick...(Interruptions)... You cannot cherry-pick and decide which one is...(Interruptions)...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Renukaji, you cannot have cherry-picking in the House, please. Now, Question No. 156.

(Ends)

























**Q. No. 156**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Now, Question No. 156. The questioner not present. Any supplementaries please?

**SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE:** Sir, the daily wage earners, the poor people who are desperately poor also are often volunteering for the clinical trials and they are taking in drugs which are often resulting in their deaths. My question is: Is the Ministry aware that there is an alarming trend of deaths due to bioequivalence studies on the people in the country by the clinical research organizations and if they are aware, what actions are they taking against them?

**SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL:** Sir, we have actually set up a good system, a robust system after the Supreme Court's order in 2013. There is a three-level committee consisting of, the Subject-Expert Committee, the Technical Committee, the Apex-level Committee which actually gives their opinion about whether the clinical trials are to be conducted or they have to be waived off. Before 2013, we did not have a proper system of compensation in case of any serious adverse events. But post-2013, we have a proper system in place to address any such serious adverse events and we have a properly detailed formula which has been established in order to give



**Q. No. 156 (contd.)**

compensation in such cases where deaths take place. There are several factors like age, occupation, which are taken into account. After these systems have come into place, the adverse events have actually gone down in number and we are making sure that compensations are being given by the sponsored investigators.

**MS. DOLA SEN:** Sir, will the hon. Minister let this august House know details of the implementation of recommendations of Parliamentary Standing Committee in regard to trials required to be conducted only in the 330 medical colleges that have emergency facilities? If the hon. Minister did not consider the suggestions of the Parliamentary Standing Committee in this regard, then, what is the reason therefor?

**SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL:** Sir, the hon. Member is actually referring to the 59<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee, wherein they had actually expressed their reservations about 33 clinical trials which were waived off. You are talking about it. After that, we constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Ranjit Roy Chaudhuryji, who said that the exemptions to clinical trials should be given in certain specific conditions like a national emergency or urgency or, maybe, a drug which is needed for

**Q. No. 156 (contd.)**

orphan disease or any such event. Post that, we came up with a system under which there are five situations, in which we give exemptions to clinical trials, which involve, maybe, a life-threatening disease, a serious disease, or if there is a disease which is specially suited to Indian conditions or there is an unmet need. This is what we have done post the 59<sup>th</sup> Report and there was only reservation about 33 clinical trials and we have made sure that there is a proper system for giving exemptions to the clinical trials.

(Ends)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Question No. 157. ...(Interruptions)... Shri Ritabrata Banerjee. ...(Interruptions.)...

**SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL:** I have the Committee report with me. There is...(Interruptions)...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** No, no. Please. ...(Interruptions)... Both the Minister and the Member, they should not talk to each other....(Interruptions)...

(Ends)







**Q. No. 157**

**SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:** Sir, my first supplementary question is this. If this Bill comes into effect as law, then, will the Reserve Bank of India's mandate shift from supervision, regulation and monetary policy to ensuring financial stability in the country?

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Sir, the Bill is before the Standing Committee and the Government is awaiting whatever recommendations the Standing Committee will give in this matter. The Reserve Bank of India has several mandates and certainly there is a mandate, as far as the Government of India is concerned, of which Reserve Bank also has a direct connection, that financial stability in the country has to be maintained.

(Followed by KS/1Y)

KS-MCM/1Y/12.50

**SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:** Sir, my second question is this. The hon. Finance Minister has stated that bail-in would not have any ill effects. Now, the Bill proposes bail-in as one of the methods of resolution when banks issue securities in lieu of the money deposited. Internationally, previous bail-in efforts have largely gone against depositors with examples of depositors losing almost 50 per cent of their savings.

**Q. No. 157 (contd.)**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Question, please.

**SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:** Sir, I just wanted to cite this example. Will the Government take steps to ensure that this does not happen in our country?

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Sir, this provision is before the Standing Committee. Let me tell the hon. Member that I have already clarified in this regard. As far as public sector banks in India are concerned, there always has been, and will remain, an implicit guarantee of the Government as far as supporting depositors in those banks are concerned. As far as security to the depositors is concerned, the Government intends, after this Bill, to have a security measure as far as the depositor is concerned much better than what arrangement existed prior to this Bill.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** There has been a lot of misunderstanding, disinformation and misinformation. It is good that the Minister has clarified. Anyhow, it would go to the Committee. Now, Shri Anand Sharma.

**SHRI ANAND SHARMA:** Sir, in his reply, the Minister has referred that one lakh rupees, which is permitted under the Deposit Insurance Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961. Now, after 56 years, would you consider,

**Q. No. 157 (contd.)**

in consultation with RBI, to raise it, because this needs change? An FRDI Bill has raised genuine apprehensions amongst the depositors because the country's economy runs on bank deposits, which is people's money. Is that money safe and secure? Otherwise, there would be a run on the banks if this apprehension continues. How would you allay those apprehensions?

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Sir, I am glad that my friend, Shri Anand Sharma, has raised this question. At the moment, security was up to level of one lakh rupees. The provisions of this Bill give a flexibility and the intention of the Government also is -- for which we are awaiting the recommendations of the Standing Committee -- that this amount should be raised. I am open to considering the suggestions in this regard. ...(Interruptions)...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Table Office must also see to it that when there is an issue which is pending before the Committee, you cannot have supplementaries. That is the rule position. We have to keep that in mind. Now, Question No. 158; Shri Husain Dalwai.

(Ends)















**Q. No. 158**

**SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI:** Sir, as per some reports in Maharashtra, it was found that many farmers who had applied for farm loan waivers had submitted duplicate Aadhaar Numbers which mean that there were fake and duplicate Aadhaar Numbers in the system. As per the Aadhaar Act, a case of misuse of Aadhaar would be taken up by the Court only if UIDAI makes a complaint. Considering the increasing number of cases of misuse of Aadhaar and misuse of their hard-earned money, does the Government propose to amend the Act to empower courts to take up cases of misuse of Aadhaar on complaints filed by anyone?

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The question has to be simple and specific. It could become complicated.

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Sir, a person who is aggrieved can bring it to the notice of the UIDAI authority, and I am sure if it finds that it is a genuine complaint, then they would take up the case. The number of complaints received so far with regard to bank frauds was 20 and the total amount involved in this is Rs. 7.65 lakh. These are all cases which have been taken up by the concerned authorities.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Second supplementary.

**Q. No. 158 (contd.)**

**SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI:** No; thank you.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Thank you. Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu; you are getting a chance for the second time. That cannot be a regular practice, but since there is no other person, you are being allowed.

**SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU:** Sir, my specific point is to highlight the complications of aging in connection with the Aadhaar Card. The thumb and retina impressions are becoming big complications. The disabled are facing a lot of problems because of this system. Is the Government considering looking at this basic fact on par with the advanced nations which have done away with these requirements in case of the aged and those with disabilities?

(FOLLOWED BY KGG/1Z)

KGG-GS/1Z/12.55

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Sir, the principal question related to the banking system itself. Since the hon. Member has raised a question, I do appreciate that it is a very important point he is making. I will certainly bring it to the concerned Ministry and the authority which is looking into this.

(Ends)











**Q. NO. 159**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Now Question No. 159, the questioner not present. Are there any supplementaries? No.

(Ends)











**Q. NO. 160**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Question No. 160, the questioner not present.

**SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU:** Sir, I seek a supplementary.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** One man can't go on seeking supplementaries.

Any supplementary? No.

(Ends)









**Q. NO. 161**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Now, Question No. 161, please. The questioner not present. The Minister has placed the reply on the Table.

(Ends)



















**Q. NO. 162**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Now Question No. 162, the questioner, Shri Kapil Sibal, not here. Any supplementary?

**SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU:** Sir, I seek a supplementary.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The same Member can't do it.

**SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU:** I am asking on behalf of the House, Sir.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** You are a good hon. Member, please sit down.

(Ends)















**Q. NO. 163**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** We will then go to the next Question, Q. No. 163. He is also not there. Something special is happening!

(Ends)











**Q.No. 164**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Then Question No. 164, the Minister has laid the reply on the Table. Any supplementary?

**SHRI ANAND SHARMA:** Sir, about the sale of Air India, the Minister should inform the House as to what the proposals are and whether the proposal has been duly approved by the Union Cabinet or not. In addition to that, what about the assets' listing? Has the audit been done? What is the present market value of the Air India assets? How do you propose to dispose them of? There is confusion about the sale. Sometimes, the Government comes out with a statement that there will be a bifurcation of some other companies or the assets will be sold separately before they proceed.

**SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI:** Sir, Air India-specific Alternative Mechanism has been constituted. There are a few Ministers on it. It is headed by the Finance Minister. I am on it, Shri Suresh Prabhu is there, Shri Piyush Goyal is there and Shri Nitin Gadkari is there. This Committee will take a decision as to what has to happen there. As of now, if any suggestion from any quarter...

**SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:** Sir, there is something wrong with the sound system. ...(Interruptions)...

Q.No. 164 (Contd.)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** I have heard you and we will take note of it. Mr. Minister, please.

**SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI:** Sir, as of now, if any suggestions come, all the suggestions are welcome and the Government will definitely take them into consideration. The ultimate idea is to make Air India a vibrant airline with a professional management. Without professionalism in the management, there is hardly going to be any improvement in Air India.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Now Question No. 165, the last question.  
...(Interruptions)...

**SHRI ANAND SHARMA:** He said that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, in its meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** What is the question?

**SHRI ANAND SHARMA:** Sir, they have already given an approval for the strategic disinvestment. Please also refer to the rationale of disinvestment. That is what we are asking. ...(Interruptions)...

**SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI:** Sir, in-principle approval is given. ...(Interruptions)...

Q.No. 164 (Contd.)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** He said, 'in-principle approval' is given.

**SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU PUSAPATI:** Sir, that is why I am saying that if there are any suggestions, these are welcome. ...(Interruptions)...

**SHRI ANAND SHARMA:** Sir, the assets run into lakhs of crores of rupees, including the land assets, buildings. ...(Interruptions)...

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Please, we are not discussing the issue ...(Interruptions)... In Question Hour, we have got the answer. Anandji, please sit down.

I have an observation to make. Surprisingly, five or six Members who have their Questions today did not turn up in the House. They have the liberty. I don't question them. At the same time, we have a responsibility. If you file a Question, so much time, energy and also resources are spent. Not coming to the House is not a good practice. Keep that in mind.

(Ends)

(Contd. by KLS/2A)











KLS/2A/1.00

**Q.No. 165**

**MR. CHAIRMAN (CONTD.):** Last question, Question No. 165, he is also not there. ...(Interruptions)... So, all questions are completed today. Question Hour is over. ...(Interruptions)... The House stands adjourned to meet at 2.00 p.m.

...

**The House then adjourned for  
lunch at one of the clock.**