

SSS-DS/1A/11.00

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

...

REFERENCE BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you are all aware, there was an assault on Shri Sharad Pawar, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Food Processing Industries, on 24th November, 2011, while he was walking down the steps of New Delhi Municipal Council Auditorium after participating in a literary function. I am sure the House will join me in condemning the assault on Shri Sharad Pawar.

ALL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 61.

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, we had given a notice for suspension of Question Hour. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. (Interruptions) Can I say something? (Interruptions) Please don't show any newspapers.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I just want one minute. (Interruptions)

श्री सभापति: अहलुवालिया साहब, मुझे कह लेने दीजिए।..(व्यवधान)..

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श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, हम लोग एफडीआई का विरोध करते हैं। ..(व्यवधान)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. (Interruptions)

Please...(Interruptions) Please listen to me.

श्री पुरुषोत्तम खोडाभाई रूपाला: सर, इससे खुदरा व्यापार को नुकसान होगा।..(व्यवधान)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: How do I call anybody if this is going on? (Interruptions)

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, एफडीआई से महँगाई बढ़ेगी। ..(व्यवधान)..

श्री सभापति: सतीश जी, एक मिनट..(व्यवधान).. प्लीज़ बैठ जाइए।..(व्यवधान).. No banners please. (Interruptions)

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, I just want one minute. (Interruptions)

श्री ब्रजेश पाठक: सर, हम लोग एफडीआई का विरोध करते हैं।..(व्यवधान)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, ...(Interruptions)...One minute please..(Interruptions)

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Sir, the Standing Committee on Commerce has given two reports recommending not to allow FDI in the retail sector. But the Government has not acceded to that recommendation. (Interruptions) Sir, the Leader of the Opposition wanted to speak. He must be allowed to speak first. (Interruptions) Sir, how can the Cabinet take such an important decision when the House is in session? (Interruptions)

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute please...(Interruptions)...

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, no FDI in the retail sector. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please allow me to speak. (Interruptions) Please listen to me. (Interruptions) Will you please listen to me? (Interruptions)

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, how could the Cabinet decide on something when the Parliament is in session? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned till 12.00 hours.

...

The House then adjourned at three minutes past eleven of the clock.

-SSS/NBR-HMS/1B/12.00.

**The House met at twelve of the clock,
MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair**

SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, there should not be any FDI in retail sector...(Interruptions)...

DR. T.N. SEEMA: Sir, we oppose FDI in retail sector ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Sir,...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let the Papers be laid first ...(Interruptions)...

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

1. **SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:** Sir, I lay on the Table—

I.(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 23 of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961:—

- (a) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi (Himachal Pradesh), for the year 2009-10, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology, Rajasthan, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology, Rajasthan, for the year 2009-10, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (d) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (e) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Patna, for the year 2008-09, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (f) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Patna, for the year 2009-10, and the Audit Report thereon.

(2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IITM), Chennai, for the year 2010-11.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

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- (ii) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, for the year 2010-11.
 - (b) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, for the year 2010-11, and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of Section 23 of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961.
 - (c) Statement by Government accepting the above Reports mentioned (a) and (b) above.
- (iii) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, for the year 2009-10.
 - (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
- (iv) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Allahabad, for the year 2009-10.
 - (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.
 - (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.
- (v) (a) Annual Report of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad, for the year 2010-11.
 - (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

...(Interruptions)...

2. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation), under sub section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:-

- (1) S.O. 1893 (E), dated the 12th August, 2011, notifying the specifications of certain fertilizers imported in India for a

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period of two years.

- (2) S.O. 1949 (E), dated the 23rd August, 2011, notifying the specification of Bentonite Sulphur with Zinc for a period of three years.

II.(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 29 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992:—

- (a) Annual Report of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 2008-09.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Ends)

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we will not allow FDI in retail sector
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please go to your seats
...(Interruptions)...Don't come into the well...(Interruptions)...

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform the Members that a letter has been received from Shri Shivpratap Singh stating that he has been admitted in Nephrology Department of AIIMS due to health problems. He has, therefore, requested for grant of Leave of Absence for the entire

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current (224th) Session of the Rajya Sabha from 22nd November, 2011, to 21st December, 2011.

Does he have the permission of the House to remain absent from all meetings of the House during the current Session?

(No Hon. Member dissented)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted.

(Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we have announcement regarding Government Business for the next week. Mr. Rajeev Shukla.

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ANNOUNCEMENT RE. GOVERNMENT BUSINESS FOR WEEK
COMMENCING 28TH NOVEMBER, 2011.

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): Sir, I beg to announce that the Government Business in this House for the week commencing 28th November, 2011, will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:-
 - (a) The Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2010.
 - (b) The Costs and Works Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2010.
 - (c) The Company Secretaries (Amendment) Bill, 2010.
 - (d) The Architects (Amendment) Bill, 2010.
 - (e) The National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore, Bill, 2010.
 - (f) The Copyright (Amendment) Bill, 2010.
3. Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bill relating to Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2011-12, after it is passed by the Lok Sabha.
4. Consideration and passing of the Damodar Valley Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2011, after it is passed by the Lok Sabha.

(Ends)

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SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, we do not allow FDI in retail sector
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, FDI should not be permitted in retail
sector...(Interruptions)...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we don't want FDI in retail
sector...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us take up the Special Mentions
...(Interruptions)...Now, a statement from the Commerce Minister
...(Interruptions)...

- (I) **STATEMENT RE. REVIVAL, REFORM AND RESTRUCTURING
OF HANDLOOM SECTOR.**
- (II) **STATEMENT RE. OPENING UP OF FDI IN MULTI-BRAND
RETAIL TRADING AND FURTHER LIBERALIZATION OF FDI
POLICY IN SINGLE BRAND RETAIL TRADING**

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND
SHARMA):** Sir, I beg to make the following statements:

(I)

Sir, in the Budget speech for 2011-12 on 28.2.2011, the Finance
Minister had announced that the Government of India would provide
Rs.3000 crore for implementing the financial package for handloom

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sector for waiver of overdue loans. As a follow up of the Budget announcement, the Government has now approved the following:

(i) To implement the "Revival, Reform and Restructuring Package for Handloom Sector" starting with the current financial year as a new Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme with a total outlay of Rs.3884 crore.

The component-wise details of the Financial Package are as follows:

S.No.	Component	Rs. crore
1.	Loan waiver and recapitalization of handloom weavers cooperative societies as on 31.03.2010.	3021
2.	Waiver of individual weaver loans as on 31.3.2010	500
3.	Strengthening of weaver cooperative societies	88
4.	3% Interest Subsidy for fresh loans	180
5.	Credit Guarantee for fresh loans	+5
6.	Training for the functionaries	30
7.	Loss assessment exercise & Cost of Implementation	40
	Total	3884

(ii) Out of the total amount of Rs. 3884 crore, the share of the Government of India will be Rs. 3137 crore and that of the State Governments will be Rs.747 crore.

(iii) The funds required for loan waiver and recapitalization of handloom

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weavers cooperative societies and that for individual weavers (Sl.No.1 and 2 respectively in the table above) will be shared in the following ratio between the Government of India and States concerned:

S.No.	Beneficiary	General Category States (Centre: States)	Special Category States (Centre: States)
(i)	State level apex societies	75: 25	90: 10
(ii)	Primaryhandloom cooperative societies	80: 20	90: 10
(iii)	Individual weavers/SHGs etc.	80: 20	90: 10

(iv) Under the scheme, funds will be provided for repayment of 100% of principal and 25% of interest, which is overdue as on 31.03.2010 in respect of viable and potentially viable Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies and Apex Societies as well as in respect of individual handloom weavers, master weavers, Self Help Groups and Joint Liability Groups who have taken such loans for handloom weaving purposes, provided the banks agree for sanctioning fresh loans. There would be an overall ceiling of Rs. 50,000 per individual beneficiary as far as funding under this scheme is concerned in respect of waiver of over dues of individual

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handloom weavers.

(v) The Government has further approved an interest subvention of 3% for 3 years to be extended from the date of disbursal of the fresh loan extended by banks to the eligible handloom cooperative societies and individual handloom weavers covered under this Scheme. The interest subvention would not be made available from the date on which a loan becomes non-performing asset.

(vi) The Government will make necessary provision for credit guarantee for a period of three years for the fresh loans extended as per para (v) above.

(vii) The Government has further approved the constitution of three levels of Committees at the national, state and district levels for implementing and monitoring the scheme.

(viii) The Government has also approved the releasing of 80% of the share of Govt. of India on signing of MoU with the State Governments and NABARD, and on completion of loss assessment exercise in a particular State.

(Ends)

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Sir, my second statement is:

The Government has approved the proposal of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion for allowing FDI in Multi-Brand Retail Trading and liberalization of the policy in Single-Brand Retail Trading. The details of the proposals approved are as under:

(1) **FDI in Multi-Brand Retail Trading:**

(i) FDI in Multi Brand Retail Trade may be permitted up to 51 %, with Government approval;

(ii) Fresh agricultural produce, including fruits, vegetables, flowers, grams, pulses, fresh poultry, fishery and meat products, may be unbranded.

(iii) Minimum amount to be brought in, as FDI, by the foreign investor, would be US \$ 100 million.

(iv) At least 50% of total FDI brought in shall be invested in 'backend infrastructure', where 'back-end infrastructure' will include capital expenditure on all activities, excluding that on front-end units; for instance, back-end infrastructure will include investment made towards processing, manufacturing, distribution, design improvement, quality control, packaging, logistics, storage, ware-house, agriculture market produce infrastructure etc. Expenditure on land cost and rentals, if any, will not be counted for purposes of backend infrastructure.

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(v) At least 30% of the procurement of manufactured/ processed products shall be sourced from 'small industries' which have a total investment in plant & machinery not exceeding US \$ 1.00 million. This valuation refers to the value at the time of installation, without providing for depreciation. Further, if at any point in time, this valuation is exceeded, the industry shall not qualify as a 'small industry' for this purpose.

(vi) Self-certification by the company, to ensure compliance of the condition at serial nos. (iii), (iv) and (v) above, which could be cross-checked as and when required. Accordingly, the investors to maintain accounts, duly certified by statutory auditors.

(vii) Retail sales locations may be set up only in cities with a population of more than 10 lakh as per 2011 Census and may also cover an area of 10 kms around the municipal/urban agglomeration limits of such cities; retail locations will be restricted to conforming areas as per the Master/Zonal Plans of the concerned cities and provision will be made for requisite facilities such as transport connectivity and parking;

(viii) Government will have the first right to procurement of agricultural products;

Uncorrected/ Not for Publication-25.11.2011**.(2) FDI in Single-Brand Retail Trading:**

(i) FDI in single brand retail trading may be permitted up to 100% with Government approval;

(ii) Products to be sold should be of a 'Single Brand' only.

(iii) Products should be sold under the same brand internationally i.e. products should be sold

under the same brand in one or more countries other than India.

(iv) 'Single Brand' product-retailing would cover only products which are branded during manufacturing.

(v) The foreign investor should be the owner of the brand.

(vi) In respect of proposals involving FDI beyond 51 %, 30% sourcing would mandatorily have to be done from SMEs/ village and cottage industries artisans and craftsmen. 'Small industries' would be defined as industries which have a total investment in plant & machinery not exceeding US \$ 1.00 million. This valuation refers to the value at the time of installation, without providing for depreciation. Further, if at any point in time, this valuation is exceeded, the industry shall not qualify as a 'small industry' for this purpose. The compliance of this condition will be ensured through self-certification by the company, which could be subsequently checked, by statutory auditors, from the duly certified accounts, which the investors will be required to maintain. (End)

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SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)

2011-12

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), for the year 2011-12.

(Ends)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will, now, take up Special Mentions.

These will be laid by hon. Members.

SPECIAL MENTIONS**TMV/9A**CONCERN OVER ACUTE SHORTAGE OF COAL FOR
GENERATION OF POWER IN THE COUNTRY**

SHRI N. K. SINGH (BIHAR): Sir, endemic coal shortages have jeopardised India's energy security. The growing disequilibrium between supply and demand coupled with inefficient transportation make it increasingly difficult for power targets to be met. This also has severe implications for aluminium, cement and other non-power consumers. The demand-supply mismatch of coal is expected to be 137.03 million tonnes at the end of 2011-12. Additionally, coal consumption in the country is expected to take off in the coming decade. As per the Planning Commission, domestic coal demand will increase to 1.0 billion tonnes by the end of the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-2017), necessitating about 200 million tonnes of imports to bridge the shortfall in domestic output.

Increased reliance on imports is inhibited by long-haul

**** Laid on the table of the House.**

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transportation costs, internal movements and because coal equities have been foreclosed by other countries. The reforms of the coal sector are long overdue and increased competition, productivity, improved technology and environment controls need to be implemented without any delay. Therefore, I urge the Government to take bold steps in ensuring India's coal supply, since it is integral to our energy security.

(Ends)

9b-sch

**DEMAND TO ENHANCE THE COMPENSATION TO THE PEOPLE
WHO LOST THEIR EYESIGHT IN THE EYE OPERATION CAMP
ORGANIZED BY A GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL IN DURGA,
CHHATTISGARH**

श्री मोती लाल वोरा (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, दिनांक 29 सितम्बर, 2011 को छत्तीसगढ़ स्थित बालोद, जिला दुर्ग में सरकारी अस्पताल द्वारा आयोजित नेत्र शिविर में एकसाथ 93 लोगों के आंख के आपरेशन किए गए। बिना पर्याप्त तैयारी के इतनी बड़ी संख्या में आपरेशन किये जाने तथा आपरेशन कराने आये गरीब किसान और मजदूर तबके के लोगों को उसी दिन, बिना समुचित जांच किए, कैम्प से डिस्चार्ज कर दिया गया, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप 48 लोगों की नेत्र

ज्योति समाप्त हो गई तथा 4 लोगों की मृत्यु हो गई। आयोजकों द्वारा पीड़ितों के साथ मानवीय व्यवहार नहीं किया गया। जब पीड़ित लोग अगले दिन, यानी 30 सितम्बर को कैम्प पहुंचे तब उनकी भली-भांति देखभाल करने की बजाय उन्हें दुर्ग, भिलाई एवं रायपुर के अस्पतालों में रिफर कर दिया गया तथा अस्पताल की एम्बुलेंस से भेजने की बजाय बसों से जाने को कहा गया, जो मानवीय दृष्टि से उचित नहीं था।

इससे पूर्व 12 जुलाई, 2011 को सामाजिक संस्था उदयाचल के नेत्र शिविर में जिन 7 लोगों को आपरेशन के बाद परेशानी आई थी, उनका इलाज उदयाचल के खर्च पर रायपुर स्थित अस्पताल में कराया जा रहा है। बालोद की उक्त घटना के समय भी इसी तरह का आचरण होना चाहिए था।

मेरा केन्द्र सरकार से अनुरोध है कि सभी पीड़ितों की सरकारी खर्च पर किसी अच्छे अस्पताल, जैसे कि दिल्ली स्थिति डा. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद नेत्र केन्द्र, में जांच करानी चाहिए और यदि नेत्र ज्योति वापस आने की संभावना है तो वहां उनका इलाज कराया जाना चाहिए।

राज्य सरकार ने प्रत्येक पीड़ित व्यक्ति को 50,000/- रुपये का अनुदान दिया है, किन्तु वह बहुत ही कम है। मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि वह प्रत्येक पीड़ित को 2,00,000/- (दो लाख रुपये) तथा मृतकों के परिवार को 4,00,000/- (चार लाख रुपये) की सहायता दे तथा राज्य सरकार उनके परिवार के एक सदस्य को सरकारी नौकरी दे।

VK/9C

**NEED TO PROVIDE PERMANENT COMMISSION TO WOMEN
OFFICERS COMMISSIONED THROUGH SHORT SERVICE
COMMISSION**

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (PUNJAB): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Defence Minister towards the plight of women Officers commissioned through the Short Service Commission in the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. In the year 2011, there are 1055 women officers in the Army, 232 in the Navy and 936 in the Air Force, excluding the Army Medical Corps, Army Dental Corps and Military Nursing Services, who have been inducted as Short Service Commission officers in select support arms and services. The Government, vide its order dated 26.09.2008, have granted permanent commission prospectively to S.S.C women officers to be inducted in the Judge Advocate General, Army Education Corps of Army and the corresponding Branch/Cadre in the Navy and the Air Force, i.e. Accounts Branch of the Air Force and Naval Constructor of the Navy. Thus discriminating against other Short Service Commissioned women officers who are serving in other branches of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.

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As the women in no way are inferior to men, as has been proved by Major Mitali Madhusmita, who has become the first Indian women officer to be awarded the Sena Medal for Gallantry, they must be provided with permanent commission retrospectively in all the arms of Army, Navy and Air Force based on the principles of Equality as enshrined in Article 14 of our Constitution and natural justice. Without discriminating on flimsy grounds based on surmises and conjectures, I urge the Defence Minister to take decisive positive action in this direction.

(Ends)

RG/9D

NEED FOR REGULATORY MECHANISM ON SALE AND USE OF STENTS IN THE COUNTRY

SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY (ANDHRA PRADESH): Sir, stents help unclog arteries of heart, but these have become a major source of fast bucks for many hospitals and doctors. In the absence of any monitoring and regulatory mechanism on stents, hospitals have developed this as a profit-generating commission system in connivance with cardiologists and foreign stent manufacturers. Even

though Indian stents are good in quality, hospitals and doctors seldom use them on patients, since these do not fetch them any commission. The result is that patients are forced to pay hefty amounts.

The *modus operandi* is very interesting. There are four or five imported stent companies vying for contract with some hospitals. The company that supplies imported stent at a very low price than others is recommended by cardiologist and chosen by hospital. Only that stent will be used for a fixed period of time on all patients. In the absence of a regulatory framework, the company compromises on quality, because it really cannot maintain quality standards at such a cheap price. So, the company first ropes in cardiologist by giving him commission. Then, it takes cardiologist-approved stent to hospital management for approval and eventually fixes commission for the hospital too. For example, Bare Metal Stent costs Rs. 8,500-16,000 to a hospital, but the hospital charges Rs. 30,000-55,000 from a patient. Cobalt-Chromium Stent costs Rs. 14,000-30,000, but charged Rs. 50,000-70,000. Drug-Eluting Stent costs Rs. 75,000-80,000, but charged Rs. 1,00,000-1,50,000. In addition, hospitals

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charge fifteen to twenty per cent as handling charges.

In view of this, I request the Government of India to set up a regulatory body on the lines of U.S. Food and Drug Administration to contain this malpractice by hospitals and doctors in the country.

(Ends)

9e/ks

**REQUEST FOR ACCORDING 'CLASSICAL LANGUAGE'
STATUS TO MARATHI LANGUAGE**

SHRI SANJAY RAUT (MAHARASHTRA): Sir, I would like to bring to the kind attention of the Government, through you, that 95 million people speak Marathi fluently all over the world. It is one of the ancient languages of the world and owes its origin to Vedic Sanskrit. In fact, it is said to be the first language among all the 'Sanskrit-udbhov' languages. Though it is a much older language, yet, its first written record, a document in Marathi, was found in Karnataka and that dates back to 700 A.D.

Marathi has a proven historical legacy and a very rich literature of its own. It was commonly spoken over large parts of central and western India. It also had the distinction of being the official and court

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language of the Satavahana Empire and also the subsequent Yadava Empire of Devgiri.

Later on, during the reign of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and other Maratha/Peshava kings, Marathi language prospered furthermore and it also became the official language in kingdoms outside Maharashtra.

Over the ages, poet saints such as Mukundaraj, Gyaneshwar, Thukaram and Namdev have also made great contributions through their epic works to take the Marathi language to its zenith. Some of the Abhangas of Sant Namdev have been included in the Guru Granth Sahib. Some of the Abhangas written by Sant Namdev in Marathi have been found in Lyalpur in Pakistan.

Marathi is not only the official language of Maharashtra but also of Goa and the two Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

Marathi has the distinction of being the fourth most spoken language in India and the fifteenth most spoken language in the world.

In this connection, I also wrote a letter to the hon. Prime Minister on 3rd May, 2010, to which I did not get any reply, except an

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acknowledgement. In view of these facts, I urge the Government of India to declare Marathi as a classical language immediately.

(Ends)

9f/kgg

**REQUEST FOR CBI PROBE INTO
MURDER OF A SOCIAL ACTIVIST IN JHARKHAND**

MS. MABEL REBELLO (JHARKHAND): Sir, Valsa John, who had been leading an anti-displacement movement against some coal mines, was brutally murdered on the night of November 15, 2011, at Pachubera village in Amarapara block of Pakur District, Jharkhand. Valsa John had been living in Jharkhand for the last 12 years and she had been fighting against the injustice meted out to local people and, therefore, she had been under threat from the mining mafias.

I condemn the brutal killing of Valsa John. We believe that the killing of Valsa is a result of the nexus amongst the corporate sharks, mining mafias etc. It is also a conspiracy to suppress and terrorize anti-displacement activists and social activists, who mobilize people to fight against the alienation of land.

In Jharkhand, several human right activists, RTI activists and social activists like Lalit Mehta, Niyamat Ansari, Kameshwar Yadav, Somay Gagrai and others were killed in the past.

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Valsa John fought against the land sharks who were acquiring the lands of Adivasis by terrorizing the villagers. She mobilized the villagers of Pachubera, Alubera and other adjoining villages and started the protests. As a result, she was dragged into a number of controversies and was living under constant life threat. Since then, the villagers, mostly women, had been providing her security with their traditional arms. Her organization was demanding proper compensation like alternative agricultural land, employment to local youths and proper drinking water facility, etc.

She was a member of the Rajmahal Pahar Bachao Andolan (RPBA). She was also running a school for Adivasi children in Amrapara.

I request the Government to institute a CBI probe to investigate the brutal killing of Valsa John.

(Ends)

9G/PSV/SPL.MEN./25.11.2011

**DEMAND TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS
TO CHECK THE SPREAD OF
JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS IN THE COUNTRY**

श्रीमती माया सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, गत तीन दशकों से उत्तर प्रदेश के गोरखपुर मण्डल और बिहार के कुछ जनपदों में जापानी बुखार 'इन्सेफिलाइटिस' बीमारी से सरकारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार 15 हजार लोग मारे गए हैं और इससे कहीं अधिक लोग विकलांग हुए हैं। इस वर्ष जुलाई से अब तक तकरीबन 501 लोगों की मृत्यु हो चुकी है। 1978 से इसका प्रकोप बढ़ना शुरू हुआ और आज इसने विकराल रूप धारण कर लिया है।

मानसून के समय धान की पैदावार के दौरान किसानों और खेतिहर मजदूरों को यह बीमारी अपना शिकार सबसे अधिक बनाती है। ये गरीब लोग होते हैं, जो आर्थिक तंगी के कारण इलाज कराने में पूरी तरह समर्थ नहीं होते हैं। वर्तमान समय में यह बीमारी भयावह रूप धारण कर चुकी है। इसकी भयावहता का अंदाजा गोरखपुर मेडिकल कॉलेज के आंकड़ों से लगाया जा सकता है।

प्रदेश और केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा इसके निदान हेतु जो कदम उठाए गए हैं, वे पर्याप्त और संतोषजनक नहीं हैं। उत्तर प्रदेश में स्वास्थ्य की बिगड़ती हालत से जनता कराह रही है। इससे निपटने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा अभी हाल ही में मंत्रियों का एक समूह गठित किया गया है, पर उसकी रिपोर्ट जब तक आएगी तब तक न जाने कितनी जानें इस बीमारी की वजह से असमय काल के गाल में समा चुकी होंगी। गोरखपुर स्थित मेडिकल कॉलेज के विस्तार के लिए केन्द्र द्वारा जो राशि स्वीकृत की गई है, उसका असर कई वर्षों में निर्माण के बाद कारगर होगा।

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मेरी माँग है कि केन्द्र सरकार देश में फैले जापानी बुखार 'इन्सेफिलाइटिस' बीमारी से निपटने के लिए तत्काल इसे राष्ट्रीय आपदा घोषित करे और इस लिहाज से सभी आवश्यक कदम उठाए।

(समाप्त)

TDB/9H

**CONCERN OVER MALNOURISHMENT AMONG
TEENAGE GIRLS IN THE COUNTRY**

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (RAJASTHAN): United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF released 'The State of World's Children 2011 - Adolescence: An Age of Opportunity', which reveals an alarming scenario of prevalence of Malnourishment among teenage girls, resulting in anemia and underweight, in developing countries. As per the above Report, 56% girls aged 15-19 are anemic in India. The survey data of developing countries (sub-Saharan and South Asia) as provided in the Report indicated high prevalence of anemia in Mali - 68%, Senegal – 66%, Ghana - 63%, Benin - 59%, Congo - 57% and low prevalence of anemia in Burkina Faso - 52%, Guinea - 51%, Sierra Leone - 51%, United Republic of Tanzania - 49% as compared to India - 56%.

As per the Report, India has high percentage of underweight adolescent girls 15-19 years - 47%, as compared

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to Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia countries, i.e., Eritrea - 40%, Bangladesh - 35%, Niger - 34%, Senegal - 34%, Ethiopia - 33%, Namibia - 30%, Chad - 29%, Cambodia - 28% and Burkina Faso - 27%.

Anemia affects the physical and mental development of children. It leads to decreased work capacity and increased susceptibility to infection. Women with severe anemia are more vulnerable to infections during pregnancy and child birth and also have increased risk of death due to obstetric haemorrhage and poor operative risk in case of caesarian deliveries. Anemia during pregnancy also leads to infants with low birth weight and thereby all its related complications and health risks.

In view of above worrying scenario, I would urge Hon. Minister for Health and Family Welfare to save Indian girlhood from the curse of Malnourishment.

(Ends)

KLS/9J

**DEMAND TO PROVIDE PROPER INFRASTRUCTURE FOR
SMOOTH FUNCTIONING OF THE VAMSADHARA WATER
DISPUTES TRIBUNAL**

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO (ANDHRA PRADESH): The Government of India constituted Vamsadhara Water Disputes Tribunal (VWDT) for adjudication of the water disputes on the Inter-State River Vamsadhara by issuing a notification on 24.2.2010. The Tribunal met for the first time on 9.9.2010 and its 2nd sitting was held on 23.11.2010. The Tribunal was supposed to have the hearing on 1.2.2011 but it could not do so as the meeting was cancelled due to the resignation of the Chairman of the Tribunal. The Chairman resigned due to non-provision of infrastructure for holding the proceedings and also accommodation to the Chairman and others of the Tribunal by the Government of India. I am given to understand that the Chief Justice of India had on 1.2.2011 nominated Dr. Justice Mukundakam Sharma, a sitting Judge of Supreme Court to be the Chairman of the Tribunal and he would start functioning as Chairman of the Tribunal only on his retirement on 18th September, 2011. However, the real issue due to which the former chairman of the

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Tribunal had resigned, that is, lack of residential accommodation has not yet been solved. I am given to understand that the accommodation to the Chairman of the Tribunal cannot be given due to the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Accommodation. Even after the new Chairman takes over, lack of accommodation may again be a handicap for him to function. I, therefore, request the Minister of Water Resources to take up the matter with the Cabinet Committee for providing suitable residential accommodation to Chairman and Members and make the Chairman and Members of VWDT eligible for GPRA. I also request the hon. Prime Minister to kindly intervene and have the matter settled at the earliest so that the Tribunal starts functioning at the earliest. Thank you.

(Ends)

SSS/9K

**DEMAND TO TAKE SUITABLE ACTION TO PROTECT FISHERMEN
OF TAMIL NADU FROM FREQUENT ATTACKS BY THE SRI
LANKAN NAVY**

SHRI A. ELAVARASAN (TAMIL NADU): Sir, I would like to urge the Government to give importance to the letter of our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu requesting the Government to take immediate action to

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control the “rogue elements in the Sri Lankan Navy” who continue to indulge in acts of physical assault on innocent fishermen from Tamil Nadu. I would also like to remind the Central Government that on many occasions our dynamic leader, hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, had urged the Government to take effective action to save fishermen against the brutal attack of Sri Lankan Navy. Even though, many hon. Members from our State had raised this issue here continuously, but the attacks by Sri Lankan Navy are continuing unabated and the situation is worsening. Such attacks and harassment on the Tamil fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy has caused great unrest amongst the people in the State. Recently, on 15th November, a fisherman of Tamil Nadu was seriously injured by the brutal attack of Sri Lankan Navy personnel near International Maritime Boundary Line of Katchchateevu. The unordinary silence of the Central Government allows the Sri Lankan Navy to continue their brutal attacks against Indian fishermen in our sea border. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to treat the attacks as a national issue and take necessary action in this regard to safeguard the life and livelihood of our fishermen.

NBR/9L

**DEMAND FOR LEGISLATION ON PAY AND SERVICE CONDITIONS
FOR NURSES AND OTHER PARA-MEDICAL PERSONNEL
WORKING IN PRIVATE HOSPITALS**

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (KERALA): Sir, nurses and other para-medical staff working in private hospitals in the country are routinely subjected to untold miseries and various exploitations, such as:

1. Compulsory withholding/capture of their original certificates by the management as 'security' to ensure their continued service;
2. Making them execute 'bond' or 'contract' for serving the hospital for any specified period, with 'oppressive' and unjustifiable terms and conditions for recovering huge monetary penalty and/or refusal to return the original certificates;
3. Absurdly low wages;
4. Long hours of work, with no overtime allowance; and

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5. Absence of any Provident Fund, ESI/Group Insurance Scheme, pension/gratuity, etc.

In no other profession or sector in India this practice of withholding the original certificates or executing 'bonds' with harsh terms exist.

While every other organised labour/workers have enacted law to protect their interests and ensure compliance with the minimum standards of service conditions, it is unfortunate that this most essential service, comprising of lakhs of hospital staff in India, does not have a comprehensive law to save them from such exploitations and poor salary-service conditions.

I request the Government to take immediate steps to enact a comprehensive law to ensure strict adherence to the minimum salary-service conditions for nurses and other para-medical staff working in the private sector in India and to completely stop all kinds of their exploitation by the employers/management.

(Ends)

USY/9M

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**DEMAND TO CELEBRATE 26TH NOVEMBER
AS CONSTITUTION DAY**

SHRI AMBETH RAJAN (UTTAR PRADESH): Sir, we have given to ourselves a written Constitution, which is the supreme law of India. By having our own Constitution, we are sovereign and no more 'ruled'. The Constitution sets out the framework and the principal functions of the organs of the Government.

Sir, after making much efforts and studying all the then existing constitutions in different countries, Constituent Assembly under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ambedkar drafted the Constitution. The same was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 26th November, 1949. The Constitution came into force on 26th November, 1950, which is celebrated as the Republic Day throughout the country.

In view of the fact that ours being a large democracy, it is high time to celebrate a particular day as a Constitution Day. As the Constituent Assembly had adopted the newly drafted Indian Constitution on 26th November, 1949, it will be more appropriate to celebrate that day as 'Constitution Day', on the lines of October 2nd as Gandhi Jayanti and 14th November as Children's Day. This

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celebration will also be a befitting honour to the founding father of our Constitution, Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and other Members of the Constituent Assembly viz., Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer, Dr. Radha Krishnan, etc. who conceived a new Constitution for a new-born Republic.

Thus, there is a need to celebrate a particular day as 'Constitution Day' and I urge upon the Government to celebrate 26th November of every year as a Constitution Day.

(Ends)

PK/9N

**DEMAND TO SET UP AN AUTONOMOUS BODY FOR
PROTECTION OF ENVIRONMENT IN THE COUNTRY**

SHRI TARUN VIJAY (UTTARAKHAND): Is our existing institutional architecture capable of addressing tomorrow's environmental challenges?

The role of central bureaucracy has waxed and waned depending on the personality of the Minister. The Ministry which is at its dynamic peak is incapable of doing much to lift the quality of environmental governance on the ground. Our Nation will face in the

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coming decades daunting challenges: balancing claims over our natural resources with ecological considerations at all levels of decision makings, our population will climb to over 1.4 billion, larger cities will come up, water stress will grow, shift in rainfall due to climate change, retreat of the Himalayan glaciers, air quality, disposal of waste, preserving our forest and bio-diversity, protecting wild life and promoting the welfare of our tribals. Despite four decades of national legislation to control pollution, we have failed to build a single credible pollution control institution. Not a single control board (SPCB) has the capacity or institutional integrity to implement effective programme or police industry which has played havoc with the life of tribals and environment in their habitats.

Hence, there is an urgent need to create a new autonomous Environment Protector of India (EPI) to lay Institutional foundation for our environmental security and protect the tribals from the looming disaster. The EPI would be Constitutional custodian of our forests, rivers and other natural resources. The agency would report to Parliament and develop into an institution the people and tribals trust

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— a role being discharged by the Supreme Court in respect of our forests.

(Ends)

PB/90

**DEMAND FOR RESERVATION OF SEATS IN BOTH HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT FOR ARMED FORCES VETERANS**

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR (KARNATAKA): Sir, the nation is aware of the services and sacrifices made for the country by the Armed Forces personnel in times of war, natural calamities and civil turmoil. While the Armed Forces selflessly guard and protect the nation, there is a feeling that the country does not understand their concerns and that they do not have a forceful platform to voice their grievances and demands. The time has come for the nation to address this concern.

To facilitate this, I demand that the Government should seriously consider giving an independent, non-political voice to the Armed Forces veterans by reserving at least one Parliament seat — anywhere in India — for a representative of the Armed Forces veterans. Alternatively, the Government must nominate one representative each from the veterans to the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha by making

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suitable amendemnts to the Constitution of India, to ensure that they are able to represent the voice of over 26 lakh ex-servicemen and their families.

I urge the Government to seriously consider giving representation to the Armed Forces veterans in Parliament. This will certainly send a message to the Armed Forces personnel and their families that the nation understands their concerns and accords the highest priority to their welfare. Thank you.

(Ends)

9p/skc

SAFETY OF KUDUNKULAM PROJECT

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY (TAMIL NADU): Sir, the controversial issue of the safety regarding the nuclear plant at Kudunkulam must be promptly addressed by the Government. It is the democratic right of the people to protest and the democratic will of the Government to be accountable. The plant will generate power that will resolve Tamil Nadu's power problems. It clearly has positive outcomes.

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However, it is the safety aspect of the project that is being questioned. The former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is of the opinion that the fears of the local people must be removed. Safety must be assured in a time-bound manner so that the work can be commissioned. Since international safety standards have been met, the Government must educate and convince the people that no danger will occur in future. Communication is the key here.

The Government must take necessary steps to connect with the people at the grassroots level. It should establish a mission comprising eminent persons and also people's representatives like MLAs and MPs. By engaging them, people's fears should be allayed. People will be convinced that their security is being considered important by the Government. Only when the people have confidence, can the Government proceed ahead. Since we represent the people, it is our duty to assure them of their security.

I would request the Prime Minister to kindly look into this matter personally and urgently.

(Ends)

9q/vnk

**CONCERN OVER THE DEVALUATION OF RUPEE AGAINST
DOLLAR**

श्री नरेश चन्द्र अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, पिछले चार महीने में रुपए के अवमूल्यन के कारण डॉलर की कीमत 16 फीसदी तक बढ़ गई है। उद्योग, शिक्षा, आयात एवं निर्यात तथा तेल आदि सभी क्षेत्रों पर इसका प्रभाव पड़ रहा है। RBI कुछ नहीं कर रही है। रिज़र्व बैंक ने अपने खाते में जमा डॉलर को भी मार्केट में उपलब्ध नहीं कराया।

रुपए की इस गिरावट से जहाँ शेयर बाजार टूट गया, वहीं महंगाई भी बढ़ गई है, लेकिन सरकार शांत बैठी है और ऐसा लग रहा है कि देश की अर्थव्यवस्था समाप्त की जा रही है।

अतः इस विशेष उल्लेख के द्वारा मैं सरकार से इस संबंध में स्थिति स्पष्ट करने का अनुरोध करता हूँ।

(समाप्त)

KSK/9R

**DEMAND FOR INQUIRY INTO ALLEGED LEAKAGE OF THE
REPORT OF AN INQUIRY COMMISSION**

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (GOA): The Ministry of Mines, Government of India, by a notification dated 22nd November, 2010, appointed a

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Commission of Inquiry, headed by Justice M.B. Shah, a retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India, to inquire into and determine the nature and extent of illegalities reportedly committed at various places within the country. Accordingly, the Commission has visited Goa and is, reportedly, making necessary inquiries into the matter. No one would suggest shielding of culprits.

However, NDTV, one national TV channel, has claimed that they are aware of the recommendations made by the Commission, and that they have narrated them in their special programmes, as also in their news bulletins on several occasions. Based on the NDTV's alleged claim, newspaper reports have also appeared. The NDTV's telecasts have named Goa Government and certain politicians being responsible for the alleged illegalities.

Even presuming that the content material of NDTV report is fully or partly true, the TV channel has violated the laws of the land in the name of freedom of Press.

Further, Programme Code specified under The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, prohibits transmission of

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“defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive innuendos and half truths” which is punishable up to two years imprisonment.

The Government of India should, therefore, immediately inquire into the matter and the persons responsible for the alleged leakage and the persons telecasting or in any manner publishing a report claiming the same to be Commission's report, be prosecuted as per the law.

(Ends)

9S/DS/SPECIAL MENTION/25.11.2011

**DEMAND TO TAKE STEPS FOR COMPLIANCE
OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS IN RESPECT OF
OFFICIAL LANGUAGE.**

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, संविधान के अनुच्छेद 120 (1) में यह प्रावधान है कि संसद में कार्य हिन्दी या अंग्रेजी में किया जाएगा। कठिनाई होने पर मातृभाषा के प्रयोग का भी प्रावधान है। इसी अनुच्छेद के (2) में कहा गया है कि जब तक संसद विधि द्वारा अन्यथा उपबंध न करे, तब तक इस संविधान के प्रारम्भ से पन्द्रह वर्ष की अवधि की समाप्ति के पश्चात् यह अनुच्छेद ऐसे प्रभावी होगा मानो "या अंग्रेजी" शब्दों का उसमें से लोप कर दिया गया हो। इसका अर्थ मैं यह समझता हूँ कि अब साधारणतया कार्य हिन्दी में होना चाहिए। सभी जानते

हैं कि इसका उल्लंघन कहीं न कहीं, चाहे अनजाने में ही क्यों न हो, रोज हो रहा है।

मेरा सरकार से निवेदन है कि वह संविधान के प्रावधान का पालन करने के लिए आवश्यक कदम उठाए एवं इसकी जानकारी सदन को देती रहे।

धन्यवाद।

(समाप्त)

GSP-9T

**DEMAND FOR INCLUSION OF THE NAME OF ASSAM AND
OTHER NORTH-EASTERN STATES IN THE NATIONAL ANTHEM**

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS (ASSAM): Seclusion of Assam as well as North East in the National Anthem is an ignominy for the people of the region. After the Constituent Assembly officially adopted Rabindra Nath Tagore's 'Jana Gana Mana' as the National Anthem of India on January 24, 1950, the freedom fighters, national leaders and other patriots of the region approached the Central Government, including the then Prime Minister of India, for inclusion of Assam in the Anthem as the entire region was ignored in it, but without any result. The omission of the region in the Anthem, however, was not Kabi Guru's flaw. Kabi Guru mentioned only those provinces that were under the

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British Rule, i.e, Punjab, Sindh, Gujarat etc. at that time. The princely States of Kashmir, Rajasthan, Andhra, Mysore or Kerala were not recognized since they were directly under Portuguese rule at that time. Even mention of name of the mighty Brahmaputra or any of the most rescued assets of the explored paradise of the North Eastern Region in that National Anthem would have given recognition to the North East. In view of this, it is desired and demanded that a mention of Assam and North East in the National Anthem be made.

The feeling of alienation which is increasing by everyday for such type of ignorance may manifest separatist attitude among the North Eastern youth. Therefore, such inclusion may help to unite the nation strongly with prosperity and peace of the country.

(Ends)

SK/9U

**DEMAND TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO ENSURE
PROTECTION OF AIR PASSENGERS FROM ILL-TREATMENT BY
CERTAIN AVIATION COMPANIES**

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SHRI NARESH GUJRAL (PUNJAB): With the increase in air passenger traffic, it has become necessary to take measures to ensure protection of the air travelers in case of wrongful denial of boarding, flight delays, disruptions and cancellations.

Recently, Comtel Air, an Austria-registered airline, held passengers to ransom after leaving their planes grounded on the runway. A plane bound for Birmingham, due to carry 220 passengers to the UK on 18th November, did not take off from Amritsar until it received an additional 27,000 pounds from passengers.

A few days earlier, a plane carrying 180 people to Birmingham was grounded at Vienna for six hours until the passengers raised 24,000 pounds. The aircraft was held on the tarmac while those on board were taken to cash machines to find the money needed.

If boarding is denied, the airline has to compensate passengers in accordance with CAR provisions, in addition to refund of tickets. In the past week, seven flights of Comtel to Birmingham Airport have been cancelled. Passengers, whose flights have been disrupted, have been forced to make alternative travel arrangements, according to the APAI.

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The increase in complaints necessitates some affirmative action to safeguard the interest of the travelling public. Recently, the US has amended rules to expand protection offered to airline passengers.

I urge upon the Minister of Civil Aviation to take strong punitive action against unscrupulous airlines that are violating basic international protocol so as to protect the interests of the Indian travellers.

(Ends)

YSR/9W

**CONCERN OVER ADVERSE IMPACT OF DEVELOPMENTAL
ACTIVITIES ON ENVIRONMENT IN COASTAL AREAS**

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (WEST BENGAL): Sir, today, the Indian coast is the Government's newest development zone, one that is believed to be able to accommodate country's bursting economic ambitions. The east coast — Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha — is poised to be an energy corridor with each State having signed between three and twenty-three thermal projects. The west is being mined for its rare minerals, and its beaches leased for tourism. There will soon be one port every 28 km of the Indian coast. Each port will be

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linked to a private industrial hub, housing chemical factories, power plants and automobile units.

More than 3.5 million fisherfolk already live on the same coastline. There is a village every three kilometres. They have been left with no option but to move. Thirty per cent of our shoreline is already heavily eroded. Massive structures are forcing water to shift elsewhere, to eat into 1,112 acres every year, swallowing villages, thinning beaches, and crashing into houses and hotels. Of Karnataka's 300-km coastline, 250 km face erosion. Thirty-six per cent of Odisha's beaches are under threat. As mangrove forests are cut and creeks blocked to reclaim the shore, global marine experts show that the stock of 320 commercially important fish in Indian waters has dropped below sustainable levels.

Rapid development cannot be pursued by turning a blind eye to local communities whose livelihood is affected or with complete disregard to environmental impacts. The Government must seriously take stock of the situation and address the problem at hand with great urgency.

(Ends)

VKK/9x

**DEMAND TO REVIEW THE DECISION OF LAYING AN UNDERSEA
LNG PIPELINE TO PROTECT MARINE LIFE FROM ITS ADVERSE
IMPACT**

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (KERALA): Sir, the GAIL has decided to lay gas pipeline from Kochi Puthuvyppu LNG Terminal to Bangalore for transporting exclusively gas for industrial purpose. The line is passing through the thickly populated area of Ernakulam, Thrissur, Palaghat, Malappuram, Kazhikode, Kannur and Kasargode districts of Kerala State. It is learnt that it will have width of 20 metre and length of 912 kilometres, that is, about 4562 acres of land is going to be acquired for this purpose.

The GAIL has finalised the route without considering the prevailing objective realities. They have taken unilateral decision without holding any discussion either with people's representatives or with the residents of the proposed site. They have not conducted any public hearing, ground survey and environmental studies.

So, I urge upon the Government to intervene in this issue and reconsider the proposed route of the gas pipeline and avoid the residential areas.

(Ends)

KR/9Y

THREAT TO FISHING COMMUNITY FROM LNG PIPELINE

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN (KERALA): Mr Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Gas Authority of India has decided to lay a pipeline from Cochin LNG Terminal to Kayamkulam under the sea. Of the total length of 93.5 KM, 90 KM passes under the sea. The pipeline under the sea will have disastrous consequences on the fishing community and environment. This will damage the marine eco system in this area. The leakage from the gas pipeline will damage the fish rearing capacity and pose great threat to the environment. This will affect the life of tens of thousands of fishermen along this area. The people in this area are agitating against the pipeline.

So, I urge upon the Government to reconsider the decision to lay the LNG pipeline under the sea.

(Ends)

(FOLLOWED BY PK "1C")

**STATEMENT RE. FIRST MEETING OF PRIME MINISTER'S
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL e-GOVERNANCE PLAN (NeGP) HELD
ON NOVEMBER 23, 2011**

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SACHIN PILOT): Sir, I am happy to inform you that the first meeting of the Prime Minister's Committee on National e-Governance (NeGP) was held on 23.11.2011.

Under National e-Governance Plan, initiatives like Income Tax, MCA 21, Passports, Central Excise have started delivering online services to the citizens. It is the endeavour of the Government to expand the number of public services that are available to citizens in electronic mode. Accordingly, the Committee emphasised the urgent need for adoption of e-Governance in all walks of Governance to enhance accountability, transparency and efficiency and to realize the objective of inclusive growth with equity.

The PM's Committee also decided to introduce the Electronic Delivery of Services (EDS) Bill in the Winter Session of the Parliament

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to mandate e-Delivery of all Public Services within five years of the commencement of the Act in all Ministries of the Central Government.

To give further impetus to e-Governance, it has also been decided to constitute an Expert Group to review each Mission Mode Project and suggest measures to address critical issues including process re-engineering, augmentation of project teams where needed, standards, creation of common platforms and integration across projects.

The high growth rate of our economy has resulted in a significant increase in the Government procurements and it is the policy of the Government to ensure the highest degree of transparency and accountability in Public Procurement. Accordingly, it has been decided that e-Procurement will be adopted mandatorily in a phased and time-bound manner. The Department of Expenditure will drive the adoption of e-Procurement by Central Ministries / Departments, Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and Autonomous/Statutory bodies and the e-Solutions would be certified by DIT on technology and security.

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The Government has also decided to initiate new e-Governance projects for Education, Health, Public Distribution System and Postal Services. This would ensure access to quality education, cost efficient and quality health care and postal services to the common man at an affordable cost. The initiatives for PDS will help bringing in transparency and efficiency and also eliminate corruption.

In order to leverage the rapid growth in penetration of mobile technology and connectivity, the PM's Committee on NeGP decided that public services under all e-Governance projects will be delivered through Mobile Devices like Mobile phones and Aakash Tablets also to ensure reach and accessibility of all services to the common man.

Further, basic Banking services, i.e. cash withdrawal, cash deposit, balance inquiry and transfer of money from one account to another will be extended to every Panchayat through CSCs and money transfer facility will be extended to every village by December, 2013, leveraging ICT and mobile technology. This will ensure that financial inclusion becomes a reality.

These initiatives will have a significant impact on improving governance and reducing corruption and hardships that the citizens

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have to face in accessing public services and will go a long way in ensuring inclusive growth with equity and transparency.

(Ends)

..(Interruptions)..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet on Monday, the 28th November, 2011.

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The House then adjourned at eight minutes past twelve of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 28th November, 2011.