

members of the faculty, must be dismissed under 56(J). Third, we must include a subject in the curriculum called 'Research Integrity'. Fourth, an Office of Research Integrity may be set up which will report directly to the Prime Minister. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whoever wants to associate, please send the names.

KUMARI SELJA (Haryana): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri K.J. Alphons.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri K.J. Alphons.

PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri K.J. Alphons.

SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri K.J. Alphons.

SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri K.J. Alphons.

SHRIMATI ROOPA GANGULY (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri K.J. Alphons.

DR. PRABHAKAR KORE (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri K.J. Alphons.

**Need to abandon interlinking of rivers because of the
disastrous environment impact**

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, my Zero Hour mention is on interlinking of rivers, and I hope my Tamil Nadu friends will not get very agitated. While welcoming the creation of a new integrated Ministry of Jal Shakti, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the perils of moving ahead with the interlinking of rivers.

In the sub-continent, given the dependence on the monsoon, the periods when rivers have surplus water are generally synchronous. A recent study finds a significant decrease in monsoon rainfall over water surplus river basins in India. Given the topography of India and the way the links are envisaged, they might totally bypass the core dryland areas of central and western India, which are located on elevations of 300 to 1,000 metres above the mean sea level. Interlinking of rivers could also

profoundly impact the very integrity of India's monsoon system by reducing fresh water flows into the sea. Vast areas of land will be submerged and millions of people will be displaced. Sir, livelihoods will be endangered on a large scale. While, the financial cost of interlinking are underestimated the cumulative ecological costs have hardly been studied in any detail. Rivers are living organisms with unique ecosystems and they need to be treated as such. A very large number of experts who are working in the area of water management have also been voicing their concerns on the ecological and social costs of interlinking of rivers. Therefore, Sir, I urge the Ministry of Jal Shakti to abandon this fixation on solving India's water problems through mega engineering fads and focus on urgent issues of water management, efficiency and conservation.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY (Karnataka): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

कुमारी शैलजा (हरियाणा): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय से संबद्ध करती हूँ।

DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH (Karnataka): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA (Karnataka): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN (Karnataka): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, we disagree with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member. We need interlinking of rivers. It is our priority. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, we disagree with this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, we disagree with this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI VAIKO (Tamil Nadu): Sir, we disagree with this. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I agree with you, ...(Interruptions)... but, this is his view. ...(Interruptions)... I agree with you people. ...(Interruptions)... This is not the way Amma. ...(Interruptions)... You have expressed your view, now leave it. ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Jairam Ramesh has got every right to express his view. But, I would like to tell him politely that this is not the view of the country as of now. That has to be understood.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: Sir, we have the right to associate, then, we also have the right to disassociate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is broadly so, if you have any idea, then, you should ask the States, they will tell you. The next speaker is Shri Ram Nath Thakur.

**Need to remove charges levied by banks for not maintaining
minimum balance**

श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर (बिहार): सभापति महोदय, अभी हाल ही में समाचार-पत्रों में यह खबर छपी है कि बैंकों ने बचत खाते में न्यूनतम मासिक बैलेंस न रखने पर ग्राहकों पर अर्थ दंड लगाकर लगभग 9 हजार करोड़ रुपये वसूल किए हैं। बैंकों ने यह नियम तय किया है कि मेट्रो शहरों में बचत खाता धारक को अपने खाते में औसतन 3 हजार रुपये मासिक न्यूनतम बैलेंस रखना अनिवार्य है। इसी तरह से छोटे शहरों में 2 हजार रुपये तथा ग्रामीण इलाकों में खाता धारकों को अपने खाते में 1 हजार रुपये रखना जरूरी है, नहीं तो बैंकों द्वारा खाता धारकों पर अर्थ दंड लगाया जाता है।

महोदय, 2017-18 में बैंकों द्वारा 5,000 करोड़ रुपये वसूल किए गए थे। इनमें से सर्वाधिक राशि, जो लगभग 50 प्रतिशत है, स्टेट बैंक ऑफ इंडिया द्वारा वसूल की गई थी। महोदय, आखिर कौन बचत खाते में न्यूनतम मासिक बैलेंस नहीं रख सकता है? इसको वे लोग ही नहीं रख सकते हैं, जिन्हें अचानक आपात स्थिति में पैसा निकालने की जरूरत पड़ जाती है। यह तो गरीबों की मजबूरी का फायदा उठाने वाली बात है। सरकारी प्रतिष्ठान, जिसका उद्देश्य गरीब का कल्याण करना है, उसे ऐसा नहीं करना चाहिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: राम नाथ जी, आपको पढ़ना नहीं है, मेरी ओर देखना है और बोलना है।

श्री राम नाथ ठाकुर: मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूं कि वह बैंकों से उन गरीब लोगों का पैसा वापस करने के लिए तथा इस प्रकार का नियमन समाप्त करने के लिए भी कहे।

श्री सभापति: धन्यवाद, the rule says that in Zero Hour mention, you have to bring it to the notice of the House and you are not supposed to read it. In Special Mention, you are supposed to read it. This has to be understood by all the Members. The next speaker is Shri K.K. Ragesh, not present. Now, the next speaker is Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth.