

The second suggestion that I have is this. Our Constitution envisages a strict separation of powers between the three wings, the Executive, the Judiciary and of course, the Parliament. In India, however, it is the Executive which decides when the Parliament should be convened. The dates of the Session are decided by the Executive. Following all the major democracies of the world, I would like to urge upon you that consideration may be given in our country to entrusting the responsibility of formulating the annual calendar of events of the Parliament to the Speaker of Lok Sabha and to the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRIMATI JAYABACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K.G. KENYE (Nagaland): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Amar Patnaik.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Sir, I would speak in Odiya.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please.

Need to increase teledensity in Odisha

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I rise to speak about the low teledensity in our State, Odisha, compared to other States. * “Odisha is lagging behind in teledensity compared to the all-India average as well as in comparison to other states. As per TRAI data released in January this year, the all-India average teledensity is 91.82 per cent. In other words, nearly 92 persons in the entire country are using telephones per every 100 persons in the country. The teledensity rate in Odisha is only 77.22 per cent. Thus in Odisha 23 in every 100 persons are not using telephones. In contrast, the teledensity rate in Delhi is 237,147 in Himachal Pradesh, 126 in Punjab, 126 in Kerala and 117 in Tamil Nadu. Our Chief Minister Naveen-Patnaik has now made 5T as the cornerstone of his administration. The 5Ts are transparency, teamwork, technology, time and transforming people’s lives, access to information relating to all the food security, universal health coverage schemes, plans for women self-help groups like Mission Shakti can be greatly enhanced if people can use telephones in all remote and far-flung areas. Recently, the state health department introduced new measures to address urgent medical needs of people through social media. But for this, people need mobile networks to post messages in the designated social media

*English translation of the original speech made in Odiya.

[Dr. Amar Patnaik]

handles. Thus I will urge Hon. Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad to take steps immediately to increase the teledensity of Odisha. Nearly 10,000 villages in Odisha have no access to mobile networks. Most of these villages are located in LWE affected districts. Nearly 50 per cent villages in Kandhamal, Koraput, Malkangiri & Rayagada districts have no access to mobile networks. This includes 1652 villages in Kandhamal, 1020 in Koraput, 601 in Malkangiri and 1498 villages in Rayagada district. We have to bridge the digital divide among the districts expeditiously. I will again urge the Hon. Union Minister to take urgent steps so that the Implementation of 5Ts to transform people's lives does not suffer due to lack of access to the bare minimum technology support for a common man, which is a mobile phone." Sir, in this context, our Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, has made '5Ts' as the cornerstone of his administration. These '5Ts' are Transparency, Teamwork, Technology, Time and Transformation. As technology is a key ingredient of all this transformation that we are planning, access to information relating to food security, universal health coverage schemes and plans for women Self-Help Groups like Mission Shakti can be greatly enhanced if people can use telephones in all remote areas. Recently, the State' Health Department introduced new measures to even address urgent medical needs through telephone. Hon. Chief Minister has written several times to increase the teledensity in our State. Through you, I urge the hon. Minister to take immediate steps to increase teledensity in Odisha so that the people of Odisha are greatly benefited by this.

SHRI PRASANNAACHARYA (Odisha): Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is one view that the people of Odisha are, by and large, peaceful and one of the reasons is this. The cell phones and social media are disturbing the peace of people. However, I am not against the expansion of teledensity. I am not giving any official view, but this is the feeling that people are slowly getting addicted to social media. Communication is also equally important.

Now, Shri Vijay Goel; not present. लगता है, परसों जो हुआ, उससे वे दुखी हो गये। किसी भी मेम्बर को बिना अनुमति नहीं बोलना चाहिए, मेरा इतना ही कहना है। एक दिन विजय का होता है, एक दिन संजय का होता है और एक दिन रागेश का होता है। ...*(व्यवधान)*... श्रीमती विजिला सत्यानंत।