

अतएव केन्द्र सरकार शैक्षिक पाठ्यक्रम में शैक्षणिक स्तर के उन्नत क्रमानुसार संबंधित विषय की जानकारी शिक्षण के लिए निर्धारित करे, जिससे भारतीय सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक, अधिष्ठान समृद्ध कर राष्ट्र महापुरुषों के प्रति अपनी कृतज्ञता व्यक्त कर सके।

"उन धीन-वीर लोगों का सदैव स्मरण करना चाहिए,
जिन्होंने शत्रुओं को परास्त किया है।
ऐसे व्यक्तियों का स्मरण जन समाज में नव चैतन्य का संचार करना है।
उस लक्ष्मी स्वरूपा माता को वंदन जो अतुल्या है,
जो अपने पवित्र जल और फल से भारत को समृद्धि प्रदान करती हैं।"
वन्दे मातरम्।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Ashok Bajpai — hon. Member not present. Shri K.J. Alphons, you have come. Just mention the subject of your Special Mention and lay it on the Table.

SHRI K.J. ALPHONS (Rajasthan): May I take half-a-minute to read it, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

**Demand to re-structure bank loans to address crisis in cashew
industry at Kollam, Kerala**

SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: Sir, for decades, Kollam in Kerala was a globally reputed cashew processing centre. Over three lakh people, mostly women, have been employed in the industry. Out of 834 factories located here, over 700 have shut down, leaving the cashew workers in utter poverty. The factory owners are in deep debt and banks have attached their properties.

I request the Government of India, the Ministry of Finance, and also the Ministry of Commerce to intervene and restructure the bank loans so that factories can be re-opened and workers re-employed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next, Dr. Sasmit Patra.

डा. सस्मित पात्रा (ओडिशा): सर, कल हो गया था।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Then, Shri Tiruchi Siva — hon. Member not present. ... (Interruptions)... *Subject hi nahin hai, Punia ji.* I should know what the issue is.

SHRI P.L. PUNIA (Uttar Pradesh): I had given it yesterday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, what was the issue?

SHRI P.L. PUNIA: MGNREGA, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, it's same. Name of both of you — Dr. Sasmit Patra and Shri P.L. Punia — will be added.

Now, hon. Finance Minister to respond.

THE UNION BUDGET 2020-21 – *contd.*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE; AND THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I wish to thank all the Members who have participated in this discussion. I am told that fifty-five Members have participated in the discussion and have spoken about the Budget. I have stated from the beginning that my Speech in the Lok Sabha was fairly long, I admit.

But it had so many things to say about because all of us in the Ministry and the Prime Minister himself have spent a lot of time, between July, when the Budget was presented, and now, to look at the various ways in which various sectors, which have been interacting with us, can be engaged with and also to ensure that their aspirations were met because many of them were facing a lot of challenges. So, in my reply, having heard many of the Members, and in my absence through the MoS taking the detailed notes, I would like to respond to most of the speakers. But, of course, I will briefly go through some of the initial comments that I have to make about what is our economy, which most of you all know, but I would take this opportunity to highlight.

Sir, the nominal GDP of the country has increased from 2 trillion dollars in 2014-15 to 2.7 trillion dollars in 2018-19, and it has reached 2.9 trillion dollars by 2019-20. The macro-economic stability is something which all of us will have to keep in mind. The average GDP growth has been at 7.4 per cent and inflation has been at 4.5 per cent. Then, based on the RBI's estimates, the Central Government's liabilities have come down from 52.2 per cent of GDP by the end of March, 2014, to 49.4 per cent by the end of March, 2019, clearly showing a healthy trend in terms of liability to the GDP.