SHRI SUJEET KUMAR (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI K.K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

Need for age relaxation for upper caste students falling under ten per cent Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI (Maharashtra): Sir, thank you so much for giving me a chance to speak on this issue.

I rise to speak about an urgent matter. It is about age relaxation to Economically Weaker Sections. In January, 2019, the Central Government had taken a decision by getting a legislation passed in both the Houses of Parliament to give ten per cent reservation to Economically Weaker Sections of unreserved category both in educational opportunities and employment opportunities.

In India, Sir, as you would know, there are many children who are in unreserved classes who come from economically weaker background. Either they delay their education or they have to take a break in their education because of lack of financial support. However, the newly implemented quota does not offer any relaxation in age limit or in the number of attempts for a candidate for Central Government jobs. I would like to bring this to your notice that many State Governments have implemented this age relaxation. But the Central Government jobs still do not have that. In fact, even in

the recent Junior Engineer Recruitment Notification dated 1st February, the Commission has not offered age relaxation to the EWS but other reservation beneficiaries have got it. So I urge upon the Government to extend age relaxation facility to the EWS children as the same is permissible and within the ambit of the Act passed by the Parliament. Delay in extending the reservation benefits to them will have an adverse impact on their career. I urge you to think of it.

डा. फौजिया खान (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करती हूं।

प्रो. मनोज कुमार झा (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करता हूं।

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

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

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

Eradication of TB

SHRI K.J. ALPHONS (Rajasthan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to bring to the notice of the hon. House and also of the Government the need to intensify our crusade against tuberculosis. Globally, there are 10 million TB patients and India has 24 lakh TB patients. This Government had the great courage to set a target of 2025 for elimination of TB even though the global target fixed by WHO is 2030.

Sir, of these 24 lakh, Uttar Pradesh has 20 per cent, Maharashtra has nine per cent, Madhya Pradesh has eight per cent and my State of Rajasthan has seven per cent. Because of our great focus on fighting Covid, our entire health mechanism and structure is busy in fight against Covid. Even though the Government has set up a fantastic patient tracking system, Nikshaya Aushadhi, the fight against TB has actually slowed down because of the huge efforts in fighting the coronavirus. TB patients have low immunity. There is a possibility that they may pick up Covid quickly because their immunity systems are low. The Government must intensify the tracking system and pay much more attention to tracking TB patients and treating them. Thank you very much, Sir.