

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA SINGH (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

**Faulty representation of COVID statistics of India in world map of WHO website**

DR. SANTANU SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I would like to raise an issue of immense international importance. As a Covid warrior, I often search the international data through WHO site. On 30<sup>th</sup> January while searching the international data through [whocovid19.int](https://whocovid19.int), I saw that the map of India showed blue colour and surprisingly, Jammu and Kashmir was coloured separately. When I clicked on the blue part, it showed the data of India. Surprisingly, when I clicked the yellow part it showed the data of Pakistan. To my utter surprise, I noticed that one part of Jammu and Kashmir was separately coloured once again and when I clicked that part only, it showed the data of China. Not only that, I saw in that particular map, the State of Arunachal Pradesh was also demarcated separately. Our Government should have been much more vigilant in this particular issue. We have specially seen that our Government is so much proactive in purchasing Pegasus for spying their own Cabinet Minister and Opposition leaders, like our leader and party General Secretary, Shri Abhishek Banerjee. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your issue? Shri Jaishankar, please take note of it.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

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

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

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA SINGH (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

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

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

**Need to issue notification enhancing the ceiling of gratuity to workers during the intervening period between January 2016 and March, 2018**

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I am raising the issue of gratuity. Gratuity is a social security scheme and retirement benefit of Government employees. The Seventh Central Pay Commission has enhanced ceiling of gratuity to Rs.20 lakhs from 1.1.2016 for the Government servants. However, on persistent demand from the workers for payment of gratuity on par with Government employees, the Payment of Gratuity Act was modified by issuing the Notification only on 29th March, 2018 that the amount of gratuity shall not exceed Rs.20 lakhs, but it is done prospectively, instead of from 1.1.2016. Hence, for the workers who retired during this intervening period of 27 months, and whose eligibility of gratuity is more than Rs. 10 lakhs, their gratuity is restricted to Rs.10 lakhs. For earning a gratuity of Rs. 10 lakhs, the worker should be at least drawing a salary of Rs.57,777 and for getting up to Rs.20 lakhs, his salary should be above Rs.1,15,550 per month. Therefore, there will be very few workers or employees who would be entitled for gratuity ranging between Rs. 10 lakhs to 20 lakhs. Therefore, I demand that the ceiling limit of gratuity should be enhanced to Rs.20 lakhs during the intervening period of January, 2016 to March, 2018. It would also not impinge on the finance of the companies, since there will be very few people left. Even some employers are also ready to pay enhanced gratuity as they will get tax relief. Since the ceiling has been fixed, they are not able to do so. Hence, I request the hon. Minister of Labour to take the initiative by notifying the provision for the intervening period also. Thank you.

SHRI N. R. ELANGO (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

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