

that 13.5 crore people from below the poverty line have come up and are now in the middle class. It is the change we are seeing. Sir, this Bill is part of the economic reforms. I support the Bill, which has been brought by hon. Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, and, I wish that many more reforms will be done in the larger interest of the country, and, by 2047, we will be able to see India as a developed country. During the third term of Modi ji as the Prime Minister, India is going to become third-largest economy in the world. Thank you very much, Sir.

MESSAGES FROM LOK SABHA - *Contd.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Message from Lok Sabha. Secretary-General.

The Telecommunications Bill, 2023.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, with your kind permission, I rise to report that the Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on 20th December, 2023, passed the Telecommunications Bill, 2023.

I lay a copy of the said Bill on the Table.

GOVERNMENT BILLS - *Contd.*

The Provisional Collection of Taxes Bill, 2023

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Anil Bonde. Not speaking; okay! Now, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman to reply to the discussion.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE; AND THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Thank you very much, Sir. I also thank all the seven Members who have spoken on this Bill. It is a small technical amendment but it is essentially the law which existed since 1931. The Provisional Collection of Taxes Bill, 2023 is the form in which it is coming now. There are no major changes at all. As it existed since 1931, we carry it forward. But then, why are we bringing it here? It is a part of the larger relook at all the Bills and if any colonial past residues are there in the Acts, we want to remove them and make them reflective of the modern India, the new India that we are trying to build. And in this, this particular Bill is very essential.