

- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.
- (d) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) and (b) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 11456/17/24]

***#THE INTERIM UNION BUDGET, 2024-25;
*#THE INTERIM BUDGET OF UNION TERRITORY OF
JAMMU AND KASHMIR, 2024-25**

&

GOVERNMENT BILLS

#The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024;

#The Appropriation Bill, 2024;

#The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024;

#The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2024;

&

#The Finance Bill, 2024

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, as per the Constitution, I am 'Chairman' When the Constitution was amended, Chidambaramji will recollect, in part 9 and 9A, 'Chairperson' word has been used, but corresponding amendment could not be effected. So, 'Chairman' at the moment till the House takes the view making amendment in that provision also to make it gender neutral.

Now we take up further discussion on the Interim Union Budget, 2024-25 and the Interim Budget of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, 2024-25. Yesterday the hon. Members had participated in the discussion. Today the Appropriation Bills and the Finance Bill have been included in the Agenda for which a Supplementary List of Business has been issued. We will now take up the combined discussion on the Bills after the Minister has moved the motion for consideration. The hon. Finance Minister will reply at the end of the combined discussion. Bills for consideration and return, The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024, as passed by Lok Sabha; The

* Further discussion continued from 7.2.2024.

Discussed together

Appropriation Bill, 2024, as passed by Lok Sabha; The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024, as passed by Lok Sabha; The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2024, as passed by Lok Sabha; and, The Finance Bill, 2024, as passed by Lok Sabha to be discussed together. Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman to move the motion for consideration of the following Bills: The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024; The Appropriation Bill, 2024; The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024; The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2024; and, The Finance Bill, 2024. Now, hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE; AND THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2024-2025, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I also move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2023-2024, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I also move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the services of the financial year 2024-25, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I also move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the services of the financial year 2023-24, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration; and,

Sir, I also move:

"That the Bill to continue the existing rates of income-tax for the financial year 2024- 2025 and to provide for certain relief to taxpayers and to make amendments in certain enactments, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The questions were proposed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion for consideration of the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024, the Appropriation Bill, 2024, the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024, the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2024, the Finance Bill, 2024 are now open for discussion. Any Member, desiring to speak, will do so, after which the Minister will reply. Shri Jawhar Sircar; not present. Shri Sanjeev Arora.

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA (Punjab): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. I am going to speak on this topic only on one issue and that is health, health and only health. Every Government since independence has done whatever they thought was best and required, to give health care to the population of the country, especially the down-trodden. My request to the Government is that a lot more needs to be done. Health expenditure needs to go up vis-a-vis the percentage of GDP. There is no politics involved in it. I am just requesting her to give some relief for health sector. In spite of CGHS, medical insurance and Ayushman, out of pocket expenses is almost 50 per cent and these are official numbers in India and if we take into account unreported expenses, like you go to OPD, you go to pharmacy, it would go up to around 60 per cent. This is a private report which has come out. Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to bring another piece of information to the attention of the hon. Finance Minister. *

MR. CHAIRMAN: By whom?

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA: I will place it on the Table. It is a PRS Report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no; indicate to the hon. Members right now as to who has ranked it? By whom has this ranking been given?

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA: I don't remember what report it is, but I will place the document on the Table of the House. I am giving this information from a document.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Arora, we are in the Upper House. You are making a statement trying to generate an ecosystem that we are placed so down in the line. All I am saying is, would you please indicate...

* Not Recorded

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA: Sir, I have it. Just give me a moment. It is on my phone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Which body has given it? What is its credibility? How can we subscribe to it? Can we allow anyone to calibrate us?

4.00P.M.

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA: Sir, give me a minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will not go on record unless you substantiate it. It has to be credible information. We are such a large county on the rise. We have the robust economy.

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA: Sir, I told you that I am not here to get into politics. I am just drawing the attention of the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Arora, I cannot permit free fall of information. I have said it on a number of occasions. If you say something by way of fact, you have to substantiate.

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA: I have this report. I will give it to you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Come to the next point.

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA: I am coming, Sir. Ayushman Bharat is a good scheme. It is for the poor and downtrodden. But, the only thing is that only 60 per cent, in the last five years, of the total Budget allocated has been spent. There is only one reason. We need to spend more. We need to have more GDP growth, so that the Government hospitals can provide critical care treatment. That is the reason why I am speaking on the Finance Bill that there needs to be more expenditure of GDP on health. Sir, annually, almost 10 per cent of our families — I have the report and I will place it on the Table of the House indicating from where it came...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I appreciate your passion for health. You are also doing a good job in your individual right. But, here, you will have to be careful, at least, about statistics and figures.

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA: Sir, believe me, I know how particular you are about this. I will place all the reports on the Table of the House.

Sir, annually, 9-10 per cent of families, in India, are pushed to poverty because of higher healthcare expenses. It is, again, a report which I will place on the Table of the House. So, my only request to the hon. Finance Minister is to increase the percentage of money spent on health for two reasons. First of all, it will help the poor. Secondly, we need to spend a lot on R&D. What happens is this. When we have to import medicines not available here, what happens is, you end up spending so much that you cannot afford for critical care. If we spend on R&D, we can produce affordable medicines here and save many lives.

Another thing I have seen is this. There is higher allocation of Budget at BE stage, it comes down during RE stage and the amount spent is much lower. So, my suggestion to the hon. Minister is that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare be allowed to juggle funds between the departments. If one department cannot spend, the funds may be allowed to other department which is in need of it and capacity to spend. ...*(Time-bell rings.)*... Sir, when I said that I will speak for five minutes, our party had two speakers. But, now, I am the only speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't give that suggestion — shifting from one account to another has to be in accordance with rules.

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA: Sir, I am saying within the Health Ministry. That option can be given, because funds get lapsed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The total time allotted for your party is nine minutes. You leave only two minutes for Mittal!

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA: Sir, we do not have the second speaker from my party. Let me finish my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is here. Mr. Mittal is there. He is raising his hand.

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA: Oh! He is there. I thought he was not there. I am sorry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sometimes, it is good to look behind also.

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I conclude my submissions. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Randeep Surjewala.

श्री रणदीप सिंह सुरजेवाला (राजस्थान) : सभापति महोदय, आपने मुझे बोलने का समय दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपका शुक्रिया अदा करता हूँ।

आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, अंधेरो को चांदनी बताकर बेच रही entire political science वाली सरकार की दो लाइनों में एक परिभाषा है। मेरे साथी की लाइनों में नहीं, बल्कि दुष्प्रत जी की लाइनों में एक परिभाषा है —

*"मैं बेपनाह अंधेरो को सुबह कैसे कहूँ,
मैं इन नज़ारों का अंधा तमाशबीन नहीं हूँ।"*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just one minute. Hon. Finance Minister, can you really examine very seriously to tax *sher-o-shayari* because Imran Pratapgarhi is giving it freely to everyone? This is the sixth occasion during the day. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE FINANCE MINISTER (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Sir, why not, if the House agrees and the support of the House is there. It will accrue some more revenue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please continue. ...*(Interruptions)*... This will not go on record.

श्री रणदीप सिंह सुरजेवाला : अगर सारे देश के poets के पीछे ईडी और टैक्स लग जाएगा, तो थोड़ा मुश्किल हो जाएगा।

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have diverted the subject. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA: I am coming back to the subject, Sir. महोदय, चाहे एप्रोप्रिएशन बिल हो या बजट हो, अगर आप इन्हें ध्यान से देखें, तो ये मेहनतकशों के लिए नहीं हैं। पेट और पीठ एक करने वाले इस देश के अन्नदाता और खेत मजदूरों के लिए नहीं हैं। ऐसा लगता है कि यहां ईमानदारी की रोटी कमाने और देश संवारने वाले लोगों के लिए भी कुछ नहीं है। कई बार जब इसे ध्यान से देखें, तो ऐसा लगता है कि सरकार ने महात्मा गांधी के भारत से मुंह मोड़ लिया है। मैं कोशिश करूंगा कि मैं अपने remarks खेती, किसान, खेत मजदूर, गरीब - जो आपका फेवरेट विषय है, क्योंकि आप भी उसी वर्ग से आते हैं, वहां तक ही सीमित रखूं।

महोदय, तथ्य कभी झूठ नहीं बोलते और सत्य को आवरण की आवश्यकता नहीं होती। मैं याद दिलाना चाहूंगा कि प्रधान मंत्री जी ने वर्ष 2016 में बरेली की रैली में इस देश से यह वादा

किया कि 2022 तक किसान की आमदनी दोगुनी करेंगे। आमदनी तो दोगुनी नहीं हुई, लेकिन दर्द सौ गुना जरूर हो गया। 15 अप्रैल, 2014 को आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने हजारीबाग, झारखंड तथा भागलपुर, बिहार में जनसभाओं में फिर कहा कि किसान को भविष्य में लागत पर 50 प्रतिशत मुनाफा देंगे और उसकी परिभाषा भी उन्होंने परिभाषित की। उन्होंने कहा किसान की बीज की कीमत, डीजल की कीमत, बिजली की कीमत, मेहनत की कीमत, ज़मीन का किराया- उस पर 50 प्रतिशत मुनाफा देंगे। पर हुआ क्या? इसी सरकार ने 21 फरवरी, 2015 को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में एक शपथ पत्र दिया। मैं उसकी प्रतिलिपि लेकर आया हूँ, यदि आप चाहेंगे, तो मैं यहां रख दूंगा - वहां उन्होंने कहा कि एमएसपी (न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य) Cost plus fifty per cent profit पर निर्धारित नहीं हो सकता, क्योंकि इससे मार्केट "Distort" हो जाएगी। I quote two words, इससे 'मार्केट distort' हो जाएगी। लागत पर 50 प्रतिशत मुनाफा देने का किसान को वादा भी 15-15 लाख की तरह जुमला निकल गया। मैं माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी और सरकार के संज्ञान में लाना चाहता हूँ कि जब अन्नदाता आत्महत्या करने के लिए मजबूर हो जाए, तो सत्ता का सिंहासन डोलता क्यों नहीं है? जब NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau) की रिपोर्ट यह बताती हो कि पिछले नौ साल में 2014 से 2021 तक इस देश में 1,00,474 किसान और खेत मजदूर आत्महत्या करने के लिए मजबूर हो गए-मैं NCRB की रिपोर्ट भी लाया हूँ, authenticate कर दूंगा- तो सरकार अपने मन के दरवाजे खोल किसान की पीड़ा की बात क्यों नहीं सुनती? जो 2022 की NCRB की रिपोर्ट आई है, जो 14 दिसंबर, 2023 को रिलीज़ हुई थी, उसमें लिखा है कि 11,290 किसान और खेत मजदूरों ने 2022 में आत्महत्या की, यानी हर एक घंटे में एक किसान और खेत मजदूर हमारे देश में आत्महत्या करने के लिए मजबूर है, तो ऐसे में सरकार का उस तरफ संज्ञान और ध्यान क्यों नहीं है? जब आपकी NSSO की रिपोर्ट बताती हो, उसकी रिपोर्ट भी मैं लाया हूँ, अगर कहेंगे, तो authenticate करूंगा कि देश के किसान की प्रतिदिन आय मात्र 27 रुपये है और देश के हर किसान पर 27 हजार रुपये का कर्ज है। देश की सरकार सदन में और सदन के बाहर यह कैसे कह सकती है कि सरकार के पास किसान का कर्ज मुक्त करने के लिए पैसा नहीं है और वह भी तब, जब सरकार bank defaulters का 19 लाख 34 हजार करोड़ रुपया बट्टे खाते में डालती हो और 3 लाख 11 हजार करोड़ रुपया जो इरादतन गबनकर्ता हैं, उसको डुबो देते हों।

श्री सभापति: आप इसको भी ऑथेंटिकेट करें।

श्री रणदीप सिंह सुरजेवाला: सर, बिल्कुल करूंगा। सर, इसीलिए मैं आज लेकर आया हूँ। मुझे मालूम है कि आदरणीय सभापति महोदय इतने विद्वान हैं कि वे इसके बिना मुझे कुछ कहने नहीं देंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have invoked my indulgence...

SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA: No, no, Sir; I do not have to invoke..

MR. CHAIRMAN: and I am sure you will place it all on the Table of the House.

श्री रणदीप सिंह सुरजेवाला: सर, हम सब आपकी intelligence के कायल हैं, invocation की जरूरत नहीं है। आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, सरकार हर बजट में यह जबाव दे देती है, आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने भी कहा, आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री महोदय ने भी कहा, मैं उन दोनों का बहुत सम्मान करता हूँ, कि हम किसान सम्मान निधि दे रहे हैं, जो काफी है। अगर आज आप उसकी सच्चाई, उनके द्वारा दिए गए तथ्यों पर जानेंगे, तो हैरान हो जाएंगे। मैं चार तथ्य आपके समक्ष रखूंगा।

सर, Agriculture Census 2015, उसके बाद तो आया नहीं, जिसकी रिपोर्ट 2018 में आई, उसके मुताबिक देश में 14 करोड़ 64 लाख किसान हैं। पीएम किसान सम्मान निधि में आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने और सरकार की तरफ से और लोगों ने कहा कि 11 करोड़ किसान शामिल किए गए, यानी पहले दिन ही 14 करोड़ 64 लाख में से 11 करोड़ किसान शामिल हुए तो 3 करोड़ 64 लाख किसान कहां गए? वे उड़ा दिए गए, चलिए, कोई बात नहीं। साल 2023-24 में आखिरी बार पीएम किसान सम्मान निधि की 15वीं किश्त 14 नवम्बर, 2023 को चुनाव से 24 घंटे पहले माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी द्वारा दी गई। सर, उसका भी मैं कागज लाया हूँ, वह पीआईबी की प्रेस रिलीज़ है। उसमें कहा गया कि 8 करोड़ किसानों को 18 हजार करोड़ रुपया मिलेगा। आपने कहा 11 करोड़ से अधिक, अब ये हो गए 8 करोड़, तो 3 करोड़ 80 लाख किसान कहां गायब हो गए? Agriculture Census से 3 करोड़ 64 लाख किसान गायब हो गए, आपने जो आखिरी किश्त दी, उससे 3 करोड़ 80 लाख किसान और गायब हो गए, तो इसका मतलब 7 करोड़ 40 लाख या लगभग साढ़े सात करोड़ किसान पीएम किसान सम्मान निधि से ही बाहर हो गए।

सर, एक और interesting तथ्य है, जो बजट माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी और सरकार ने पेश किया, उसमें आया। मुझे यह संशय है और जब आप जबाव देंगे, तो देश के इस संशय को जरूर दूर करेंगे। सरकार अब यह संख्या और कम करना चाहती है। साढ़े सात करोड़ किसानों की संख्या तो उड़ा दी है, अब और कम करनी है। इसीलिए पीएम किसान सम्मान निधि का पैसा साल 2020-21 में 75 हजार करोड़ था, अब पता नहीं क्यों, 2024-25 में वह घटकर 60 हजार करोड़ रुपये रह गया है! फिर मैंने Agriculture Department का बजट और ध्यान से देखा। उसमें आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री जी और सरकार के अधिकारियों ने लिखा है कि यह 60 हजार करोड़ अब साढ़े 12 करोड़ किसानों को मिलेगा। आदरणीय सभापति जी, मेरा और आपका हिसाब थोड़ा कमजोर है। वह आदतन कई बार होता है।

श्री सभापति: मेरा तो नहीं है।

श्री रणदीप सिंह सुरजेवाला: नहीं है!

श्री सभापति: आप अपने तक ही सीमित रखिए।

श्री रणदीप सिंह सुरजेवाला: हां, आप मेरा समय तो गिन ही रहे हैं। सर, मैं यही कहलवाना चाहता था। इसलिए सर, मेरे समय का ख्याल रखिएगा। It was directed there only. सर, साढ़े 12 करोड़ किसानों को अगर 60 हजार करोड़ रुपया देंगे, तो 6,000 रुपया कैसे हुआ, यह तो 4,800 रुपये बने। वित्त मंत्री जी ने या तो बजट में गलती से गलत लिख दिया है या फिर कहीं न कहीं तथ्य गलत लिखे गए हैं या मंशा ही यह है कि अब 6,000 रुपये से किसान सम्मान निधि को कम करके 4,800 रुपये करना है और किसानों की संख्या भी कम करनी है।

श्री सभापति: अभी एक ऑप्शन और भी है। शायद आपका कैलकुलेशन सही नहीं हो, यह भी हो सकता है।

श्री रणदीप सिंह सुरजेवाला: सर, ऐसा है, आप ही ने कहा था,
*“अनपढ़ जाट पढ़े लिखे जैसा,
 पढ़ा लिखा जाट खुदा जैसा।”*

I am only quoting that. इसलिए मेरी कैलकुलेशन बिल्कुल सही है। आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, एक और बड़ी चौंकाने वाली बात है और एक किसान के तौर पर, एक किसान के बेटे के तौर पर, आपको, मुझे और इस देश के 72 करोड़ के करीब किसानों को कैसा लगेगा कि खेती का बजट ही काट दिया। जो दिया, वह खेती पर खर्च नहीं किया।

सभापति महोदय, साल 2020-21 में कृषि विभाग का कुल बजट केंद्रीय बजट का 4.41 प्रतिशत था, facts can be checked. 2023-24 में कृषि का बजट देश के कुल बजट का 2.57 प्रतिशत रह गया, लगभग आधा हो गया। जो चौंकाने वाली बात है, वह यह है कि पिछले पाँच साल में मोदी सरकार ने कृषि विभाग के बजट के लगभग 1 लाख करोड़ रुपये खर्च ही नहीं किए, वापस लौटा दिए। महोदय, यह कैसी सरकार है, जिसमें किसान आत्महत्या करने के लिए मजबूर है, खेत मजदूर आत्महत्या करने के लिए मजबूर है? सरकारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार हर एक घंटे में एक किसान आत्महत्या के लिए मजबूर है, पर हम 1 लाख करोड़ रुपये वापस लौटा देते हैं! महोदय, मैं साल दर साल का आंकड़ा भी लाया हूँ, जो आपकी अनुमति से सदन के समक्ष रखना चाहता हूँ। 2018-19 में 21 हजार, 44 करोड़ रुपये खर्च नहीं किए, 2019-20 में 34 हजार, 518 करोड़ रुपये खर्च नहीं किए, 2020-21 में 23 हजार, 825 करोड़ रुपये खर्च नहीं किए, 2021-22 में 429 करोड़ रुपये खर्च नहीं किए और 2022-23 में 19 हजार, 762 करोड़ रुपये खर्च नहीं किए। इस देश का किसान कहाँ जाए, क्या करे, कैसे करे - यह एक प्रश्न है, जो इस सदन के सामने अवश्य उठना चाहिए।

आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, एक और सवाल उठता है कि किसान के लिए न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्य, जिसे हम एमएसपी कहते हैं, उसकी गारंटी का कानून क्यों नहीं है? कोई सरकार इतनी निर्दयी कैसे हो सकती है कि खेती विरोधी तीन काले कानूनों के खिलाफ लाखों किसान दिल्ली की ड्योढ़ी पर दस्तक देते रहें, 700 किसान कुर्बान हो जाएं, खेत मजदूर कुर्बान हो जाएं, तड़प-तड़पकर मर जाएं और जब उनका आंदोलन खत्म हो तो आंदोलन इस वादे के साथ खत्म हो कि किसानों के लिए एमएसपी की गारंटी का कानून लाएंगे और उसके बाद उसे कहीं न कहीं

शायद रद्दी की टोकरी में छोड़ दिया जाए या भूल जाएं, तो क्या हुक्मरानों की जबान की अब कोई कीमत नहीं रही, क्या दिल्ली की सरकार की जबान की कीमत नहीं रही, क्या उसे मानना नहीं चाहिए, क्या किसान के आँसू पोंछने की कोई मंशा नहीं रही? यह एक सवाल है, जो मेरे जेहन में उठता है, जो मैं बड़े विवेक से और बड़े संयम से आपके माध्यम से इस सदन के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। सर, भाजपा सरकार में अब एमएसपी 'Maximum Suffering for Producer' बन गया है, instead of 'Minimum Support Price.', क्योंकि एमएसपी के मायने ही नहीं बचे हैं। क्या यह सच नहीं है कि सरकार एमएसपी पर किसान की फसल खरीदती ही नहीं है। मैं आपको यह बात केवल मुँह जबानी नहीं कह रहा हूँ, बल्कि मैं सरकार में हुए प्रोडक्शन और प्रोक्योरमेंट का आंकड़ा लेकर आया हूँ, जो एग्रिकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री ने दिया है। 2022-23 में अगर आप फसल उपज और फसल खरीद का आंकड़ा देखें, तो सभापति महोदय, आप और यह सदन चौंक जाएगा और इसके लिए मैं चार फसलों का आंकड़ा पढ़कर बताना चाहूँगा। सर, 2022-23 में एग्रिकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री के मुताबिक गेहूँ 1 हजार, 68 लाख टन पैदा हुआ और एमएसपी पर फसल खरीद हुई 187 लाख, 92 हजार टन यानी 17.59 प्रतिशत, तो बाकी फसल कहाँ गई? बाकी सब बाज़ार भाव में बिकने के लिए गई। सर, जो तिलहन की फसलें हैं, एग्रिकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री के डेटा के मुताबिक सोयाबीन, सूरजमुखी, सरसों, मूँगफली, तिल इस देश में 376 लाख, 96 हजार टन पैदा हुई, पर महोदय, आप चौंक जाएंगे क्योंकि सरकार द्वारा एमएसपी पर केवल 48 हजार टन फसल खरीदी गई, यानी 0.13 परसेंट खरीदी गई। सरकार द्वारा किसान की 1 परसेंट फसल भी एमएसपी पर नहीं खरीदी गई। सर, आप दालों का आंकड़ा देखिए। 2022-23 में किसान के द्वारा 276 लाख, 90 हजार टन दाल पैदा हुई, पर सरकार द्वारा एमएसपी पर 1 लाख, 20 हजार टन, यानी 0.43 परसेंट खरीदी गई। किसान कहाँ जाएँ? क्या आप देश के किसान को बाजारी ताकतों के सामने झोंक देंगे? ज्वार, बाजरा, रागी और मक्का - ये जो चार बड़ी फसलें हैं, ये 2022-23 में 491 लाख, 70 हजार टन पैदा हुई, पर आपकी सरकार द्वारा एमएसपी पर 1 लाख, 28 हजार टन, यानी 0.26 परसेंट खरीदी गई। सर, अगर आप किसान को बाजारी ताकतों के भरोसे छोड़ देंगे, तो कहाँ जाएगा किसान, कैसे जाएगा किसान? दूसरी तरफ आपने कहा कि अगर बाजारी ताकतों के भरोसे भी छोड़ देंगे, रेट गिर भी जाएगा, तो हम market intervention price mechanism लेकर आए हैं। उसे ये Market Intervention Scheme price support mechanism बोलते हैं। यह बड़े प्रचार से चलाई गई थी। हाँ, मैं मानता हूँ कि सरकार सारी फसल नहीं खरीद सकती है, पर क्या सरकार मेरे किसान की 0.43, 0.17 परसेंट फसल खरीदेगी, तो इसलिए इन्होंने कहा कि हम Market Intervention Scheme लाए हैं। अगर आप इसे देखें, तो मैं आपके संज्ञान में लाना चाहूँगा कि 2023-24 में 72 करोड़ किसानों के लिए इस स्कीम में Revised Estimate केवल 40 करोड़ था। फिर, मैंने इस साल का बजट देखा, तो आप शॉकड रह जाएंगे। 2024-25 में अगर किसान की फसल की कीमत गिर जाए, तो उसके लिए आपने Market Intervention Scheme में एक लाख रुपया रखा है! 72 करोड़ किसानों की फसल के लिए एक लाख रुपया! आदरणीय सभापति जी, मैं बड़े आदर से आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री जी से भी कहूँगा और आपके माध्यम से ही कहूँगा कि इसे बदलने की आवश्यकता है, नहीं तो इस देश का किसान औने-पौने दामों पर फसल बेचता रहेगा और आत्महत्या करता रहेगा।

आदरणीय सभापति जी, पीएम फसल बीमा योजना, जिसकी चर्चा यहाँ पर की जाती है, वह भी अब प्राइवेट इंश्योरेंस कंपनी मुनाफा योजना बन गई है। मैं यह क्यों कह रहा हूँ, मैं बहुत जिम्मेवारी से यह कह रहा हूँ। इस सदन में 23 जुलाई, 2022 को सरकार ने जवाब दिया और सरकार के जवाब से यह साबित होता है कि खरीफ 2016 से खरीफ 2022 के बीच बीमा कंपनियों ने, जो फसल बीमा योजना चलाती हैं, 40 हजार करोड़ मुनाफा कमाया है। यह मैं नहीं कह रहा हूँ। यह सरकार ने सदन के पटल पर जवाब दिया है। सर, उन्हें प्रीमियम दिया - 1,59,132 करोड़ और किसान को क्लेम मिला - 1,19,314 करोड़। यह जो फसल बीमा योजना है, क्या यह प्राइवेट बीमा कंपनियों के लिए मुनाफा कमाई की योजना है? शायद इसीलिए प्रधान मंत्री जी के गृह प्रांत गुजरात सहित अधिकतर राज्यों ने पीएम फसल बीमा योजना से कन्नी काट ली है। सभापति जी, देश की सच्चाई यह है कि हम एक तरफ हर साल किसान को छः हजार रुपया देने की दुहाई देते हैं, पर किसान की जेब से 25,000 रुपया प्रति हेक्टेयर हर साल टैक्सेज के रूप में निकाल लेते हैं। इसका सबूत है। सभापति जी, आप यह जानते हैं और आपने अपने हाथ से खुद ट्रैक्टर चलाया है, इसलिए मैं आपके संज्ञान में ला रहा हूँ। किसान का ईंधन क्या है — डीजल। डीजल पर मई, 2014 में एक्साइज ड्यूटी थी — 3 रुपया, 46 पैसे प्रति लीटर। लगभग आठ और नौ साल बाद उसी डीजल पर एक्साइज ड्यूटी है — 15 रुपया, 80 पैसे प्रति लीटर, यानी 357 प्रतिशत अधिक। अगर इसे हटा लें, अगर इसे 2014 के रेट पर भी ले आएं, तो डीजल 15-20 रुपये लीटर आज ही कम हो जाएगा। आदरणीय सभापति जी, मैं इस सदन के संज्ञान में लाना चाहूँगा कि अकेले पेट्रोल-डीजल पर एक्साइज ड्यूटी बढ़ाकर, इस सरकार ने नौ साल में इस देश के लोगों से 30 लाख करोड़ कमाए हैं। *

MR. CHAIRMAN: * will not go on record.

SHRI RANDEEP SINGH SURJEWALA: I withdraw it, Sir.

आदरणीय सभापति जी, अब तो खेती पर गब्बर सिंह टैक्स लगा दिया है, जीएसटी लगा दिया है। पहली बार इस देश में खाद पर पाँच परसेंट जीएसटी, किसान के ट्रैक्टर पर 12 परसेंट जीएसटी, किसान की खेती के उपकरणों पर 12 परसेंट जीएसटी, किसान की कीटनाशक दवाई पर 18 परसेंट जीएसटी। आदरणीय सभापति जी, ऐसा क्यों? 75 वर्षों में पहली बार किसान इस टैक्स के दायरे में क्यों है? आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री जी इस पर दोबारा विचार करने को क्यों नहीं मानती हैं? मेरा उनसे हाथ जोड़कर विनम्र अनुरोध है। आदरणीय सभापति जी, यही नहीं, किसान की खाद, जो फर्टिलाइजर है, उसकी कीमतों ने तो किसान की कमर तोड़ दी है। ...(व्यवधान)... डीएपी का बैग 2014 में 1,200 रुपये से आज 1,350 रुपये हो गया। यह आप जानते हैं। यूरिया की कीमत वही है - पहले 50 किलो से 5 किलो खाद कम करके हमारा खाद का कट्टा 45 किलो का कर दिया, अब बोलते हैं कि सल्फर कोटेड करेंगे, अब पांच और निकाल दिया। कैसी सरकार है, जो किसान के खाद के, यूरिया के कट्टे से 10 किलो खाद निकाल ले! किसान अपनी

* Not recorded.

आजीविका कैसे चलाएगा? साल 2014 में पोटैश के कट्टे का भाव 450 रुपये था और आज 850 रुपये है, इसमें भी 400 रुपये का इजाफा हो गया। सर, सुपर खाद 2014 में 260 रुपये प्रति बैग थी और आज वह 340 रुपये प्रति बैग है। इस बजट में तो आपने फर्टिलाइजर सब्सिडी का 25,447 करोड़ रुपया काट लिया। यूरिया पर 10,147 करोड़ की सब्सिडी काट ली। काश, सत्ता पक्ष के मेम्बर यह देख पाते। अगर वे बजट को ध्यान से देखते, तो यह पाते कि किसान की यूरिया का 10,147 करोड़ कम हो गया। एनपीके के बगैर तो किसान का गुजारा चल ही नहीं सकता। इसकी सब्सिडी पर 15,300 करोड़ रुपये काट लिए। हमारी सब्सिडी काटी जा रही है। 25,000 रुपये प्रति हैक्टेयर किसान की जेब से निकाला जा रहा है। किसान सम्मान निधि पाने वाले 7 करोड़ 47 लाख किसान कम हो गए और आप कहते हैं कि आपने बहुत वाहवाही लूट ली! ...**(व्यवधान)**...

आदरणीय सभापति जी, बजट में गरीब और किसान के साथ भेदभाव और भावनाओं से खिलवाड़ यहीं खत्म नहीं होता। प्रधान मंत्री गरीब कल्याण योजना की बहुत चर्चा हुई। आदरणीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने भी कल कहा कि हम देश के 80 करोड़ लोगों को हर महीने 5 किलो चावल या गेहूं मुफ्त देते हैं। शायद वे बताना भूल गए कि इस देश में भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस की सरकार राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा कानून लेकर आई थी, जिसका नाम बदलकर अब आपने पीएम गरीब कल्याण योजना रख दिया, यानी नाम बड़े और दर्शन छोटे। सर, नेशनल फूड सिक्योरिटी एक्ट में हर व्यक्ति को 5 किलो अनाज हर महीने देने का प्रावधान है - 3 रुपये प्रति किलो चावल और 2 रुपये प्रति किलो गेहूं। आज के दिन 75 प्रतिशत चावल और 25 प्रतिशत गेहूं दिया जा रहा है। 60 करोड़ लोगों को अगर 5 किलो चावल 3 रुपया प्रति किलो पर दें, तो बनते हैं 900 करोड़ और 20 करोड़ लोगों को 5 किलो गेहूं 2 रुपये प्रति किलो पर दें, तो बनते हैं 200 करोड़, तो कुल छूट कितनी दी - 1,100 करोड़ और बवंडर ऐसा उठा दिया जैसे देश बदल दिया हो। यह नेशनल फूड सिक्योरिटी एक्ट ही गरीब कल्याण योजना है। 1,100 करोड़ की छूट देते हैं, 30 लाख करोड़ पेट्रोल, डीजल के टैक्स से निकाल लेते हैं और खूब बेंच थपथपाकर वाहवाही कमाते हैं, यह किस प्रकार का देश है, हम कहां पहुंच गए हैं! सर, इसे कहते हैं गरीब के अधिकार छीनकर मार्केटिंग करना। This is what they are doing by Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana. खाद्य सुरक्षा की सब्सिडी - अगर इस साल के बजट में देखें, तो आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री जी और सरकार ने खाद्य सुरक्षा की सब्सिडी का भी 7,082 करोड़ काट लिया है। गरीब के साथ यह अन्याय क्यों, यह सीधा सवाल है।

सर, सरकार एससी, बीसी कल्याण की तो बहुत बात करती है, पर असली बात उसके उलट है। साल 2023-24 में एससी समाज की पोस्ट मैट्रिक स्कॉलरशिप का बजट आपने दिया 6,359 करोड़, पर वह पैसा ही नहीं दिया, जबकि दिया 5,400 करोड़ और गरीबों के 959 करोड़ काट दिए। यह एससी समाज के वेलफेयर की बात है। पीएम-अजय योजना - प्रधान मंत्री अनुसूचित जाति अभ्युदय योजना - आपने 2023-24 में 2,050 करोड़ के बजट की घोषणा की और दिया कितना - 450 करोड़। उन गरीबों का 1,600 करोड़ ही काट दिए। Free coaching for SC and BC students, 2023-24 में कहा कि 47 करोड़ देंगे और रिवाइज़्ड बजट में कितना दिया - 14 करोड़ 82 लाख। उनके 32 करोड़ काट दिए! ओबीसी और ईबीसी के लिए श्रेयस योजना लेकर आए। 2023-24 में आदरणीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने बजट में घोषणा की - डेढ़ सौ करोड़ और दिया कितना - 80 करोड़ - उनका भी 70 करोड़ काट डाला। डी-नोटिफाइड ट्राइब्स के उत्थान

की स्कीम में 2023-24 के बजट में आपने घोषणा की 40 करोड़, दिया कितना - 15 करोड़; आपने 25 करोड़ उसका भी काट दिया। मैला ढोने वाले सफाई कर्मचारियों के लिए 2023-24 और 2024-25 में आपने एक फूटी कौड़ी नहीं दी। उल्टा आपने कहा कि National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE) लेकर आएँगे। 2023-24 में बजट में आपने घोषणा कर दी 98 करोड़, दिया कितना, रिवाइज्ड एस्टिमेट से पता चला कि 30 करोड़, आपने 68 करोड़ उनके भी काट दिए। अब तो बाबा साहेब डा. अंबेडकर फाउंडेशन का बजट भी पिछले साल के मुकाबले इस साल 10 करोड़ काट दिया। क्या यह आपका एससी और बीसी के साथ न्याय है, इस बात का फैसला भी करना पड़ेगा।

सर, मैं चार लाइनें कह कर अपनी बात समाप्त करूँगा, क्योंकि मेरा समय पूरा हो गया है। कभी-कभी हमारे जैसे किसान भी चार लाइनें लिख लेते हैं।

"घोर अँधियारे की स्याही में अब
सूरज का आगाज नजर नहीं आता,
तेरा अहंकारी आकार तो नजर आता है,
तेरा इंसानी किरदार नजर नहीं आता।
भूखे पेट, खाली जेब, महँगी ज़िंदगी,
अब तेरी पहचान है,
बेरोजगार जवानी के टूटते अरमानों का
सबब तेरे नाम है।
खाली सिलिंडर वाली गरीब माँ की आह
न लग जाए तुमको,
हाथों में छाले लिए मजदूर की बददुआ
न लग जाए तुमको।
क्या सैकड़ों किलोमीटर पैदल गाँव लौटते
आदमी के मन की चीत्कार सुनी है तुमने,
क्या अपने बच्चों की हजारों लाशों से अटी
गंगा मैया की पुकार सुनी है तुमने;"...(समय की घंटी)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now. Your time is over.

श्री रणदीप सिंह सुरजेवाला: सर, केवल 30 सेकंड।

"क्या कभी सुनी है घर में आटे के खाली डिब्बे की खनखनाहट,
क्या सुनी है महँगी रोटी और सस्ती ज़िंदगी की चिल्लाहट?"
"उठो, अहंकार की अट्टालिकाओं से बाहर तो आओ,
सिसकती ज़िंदगी के दर्द को जान तो जाओ।"

MR. CHAIRMAN: Surjewalaji, you should conclude. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री रणदीप सिंह सुरजेवाला :

*"अगर जान लोगे महसूस करोगे तो पाओगे कि
तुम्हें कराहते हुए हिन्दुस्तान की आवाज सुनाई नहीं देती..."*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record now. रणदीप सिंह सुरजेवाला जी, आपने कई बार यह कहा कि आप तो जानते ही हैं, आपने मुझे कहा। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं बोल नहीं पाऊँगा, इतना कहूँगा कि गाँव में ज्यादा जाया करिए, ज्यादा जानकारी लीजिए। ...**(व्यवधान)**... अगर निकलेंगे, तो आपको पता लगेगा कि गाँव के बच्चे कहाँ हैं, कहाँ जिलाधीश हैं, कहाँ एसपी हैं, क्या-क्या हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... सुनिए, उन्होंने मुझे कहा। ...**(व्यवधान)**... नहीं, नहीं, आपने मुझे कहा कि आप जानते हैं। ...**(व्यवधान)**... मेरा सुझाव है, आप राज्य सभा में मेरे गृह प्रान्त को रिप्रेजेंट करते हैं, कभी जाइए किसी गाँव में। अब डा. अमर पटनायक। अगर मुझे नहीं कहते, तो मैं नहीं बोलता। आपने कई बार एंडोर्समेंट के लिए कहा कि आप तो जानते हैं। कभी जाइए, मेरी बात मानिए, जाइए कभी, आपको असलियत का पता लगेगा। आप आँकड़ों में फँस गए। Now, Dr. Amar Patnaik, you have eight minutes only.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the name suggests, it is only an Interim Budget, with the full Budget slated to be presented in July, 2024. Therefore, instead of getting into the granular details of the budgetary allocations for various sectors, which many speakers have spoken about, I would like to offer a few suggestions to the Government to consider while presenting the full Budget in July 2024. Before doing that, I would like to compliment the Government and the Finance Minister for exercising fiscal prudence and not being drawn into populist pressures in view of the impending Lok Sabha elections but maintaining continuity in the broad policy trajectory of the last four years of an investment-driven, digitally-anchored and innovation-nurturing economic growth model, thereby re-affirming macro-economic stability and boosting the confidence of citizens, rating agencies and businesses in the country as well as globally.

Increase in capital expenditure by 11 per cent, a research fund of Rs.1 lakh crore, the new urban housing scheme for the middle class, withdrawal of petty direct tax demands, making PMJAY more inclusive by including ASHA and Anganwadi workers and helpers, promoting vaccination and also providing free vaccination against cervical cancer are all steps in the right direction. I would also like to really appreciate the outcome and not outlay-centric welfare saturation model followed by the Government. This is something which the Finance Minister mentioned in the Budget. I will start with the economy and my suggestions in that regard.

While debt financing is common for a growing economy, India's current public debt-to-GDP ratio stands at a high of 81 per cent of which approximately 57 per cent

belongs to the Central Government and the balance to the States. Even though fiscal deficits have been kept under a tight leash following a glide path, a recent IMF report raised concerns about the long-term sustainability of India's debts. I am happy that Interim Budget has recognised this and has estimated less borrowings in 2024-25 compared to 2023-24 from 15.5 lakh crores to 14.13 lakh crores. However, can we do something more? The Government has met its disinvestment targets only twice during the last ten years, firstly in 2017-18 and, secondly, in 2018-19. We have to review our strategy on this front and not completely abandon it if value can be added or unlocked in certain identified CPSEs by this route. This could reduce the deficit burden.

Since 2021, Odisha has been presenting a Status Paper on Public Debt and a Fiscal Risk Statement along with the Budget every year. This practice could probably be followed here also. I think, a separate committee should be set up to engage with this issue in greater detail and if structural changes are warranted in current practice of the RBI, as being responsible for the debt management of the Central Government, then, the same could be followed.

Sir, India's overall tax to GDP ratio is around 18 per cent and in the case of Centre, it is 11.6 per cent. Therefore, there is a need to hasten pending GST reforms of upgrading the GST network to prevent fake supplies and fraudulent claims of Input Tax Credit, explore the possibility of taxing new emerging technology-backed digital platforms that host online games, private virtual digital assets by way of Government regulations and similar such initiatives, and exploring the possibility of non-tax revenue from user charges on various UPI applications, securities and capital market transactions.

My second point is on subsidy administration. There is an urgent need for a revision in the policy pertaining to two of the highest subsidies costs of the exchequer, which is the fertilizer subsidy and the food subsidy. Though India leads globally in average in several crops, our productivity is low compared to the global average in these crops and it has, in fact, been declining continuously despite increasing use of chemical fertilizers and a fatter subsidy bill as a consequence.

Imbalanced use of nutrients, deficiency of micro and secondary nutrients and depletion of soil organic carbon due to overuse of fertilizers are some of the prime reasons for reducing yield. A possible solution to this can be setting a cap on the number of subsidized bags of fertilizers per farmer as has been done for subsidized LPG cylinders, bringing urea under the NBS regime and many other efforts.

Sir, I also recommend that the Department of Fertilizer and not the Department of Agriculture be allocated separate funds for the promotion of nano-fertilizers and

organic fertilizers so as to re-orient their basic vision and objective towards natural farming and not work at cross-purposes with the Ministry of Agriculture by promoting use of chemical fertilizers. There has to be a long-term plan to phase down use of chemical fertilizers over a fixed period of time. In the immediate term, in order to address the rising import dependency on urea, the GST on raw material for fertilizers ought to be reduced to incentivise domestic production of the same.

With respect to the food subsidies, I highly recommend directing them from mainstream crops like wheat and paddy to coarse grains like millets, which would reduce groundwater usage, improve the soil regime and empower the tribals too, as millets are largely grown by tribals. It will lead to the transfer of subsidies to tribals. A national plan should be prepared for gradual implementation of the above strategy.

As far as inflation is concerned, approximately 40 per cent of agricultural produce in India is wasted. Thus, it is an apt time to implement post-harvest 'farm-gate to market' end-to-end integrated cold chain systems and processing facilities alongside increasing investment in climate-resilient agricultural practices. I am happy that the Finance Minister has recognised this in her Budget. As far as employment is concerned, my suggestion is that given the gender disparity in the labour market, what could be done is to bring women into the labour force through SHGs, gradually building their capacity to upgrade themselves into micro and small enterprises, a model that the Odisha Government has started following under the direct guidance of hon. Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik. We could have at least five medium and small enterprises in each district within the next one or two years through a concerted intervention, which will be women led.

While several steps are being taken to boost the manufacturing sector through the PLI scheme, I would strongly suggest that PLI scheme separately for hand-made weaving and crafts where 56 per cent of the labour force is women may be thought of. It should be different from the textile sector. (*Time-bell rings.*)

Sir, on financial regulators, my suggestion is that there is a need to develop institutional structures and protocols with a defined point of closure in place, which is publicly notified, so that the people who are to inquire about the status of licences, about removal of imposed restrictions and interpretation can get guidance. This grievance redressal mechanism is currently missing in the regulation sector, particularly in the financial space. This needs to be built.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Sir, last one minute. There is a need to promote use of regulatory sandboxes to ease the understanding of start-ups and MSMEs of the regulatory requirements and their compliance. This could also be thought of.

Lastly, I would like to thank the hon. Finance Minister who mentioned that the Union Government will focus on the States in eastern India and ensure that they play a pivotal role as growth engines in realizing the vision of a '*Viksit Bharat*'. (*Time-bell rings.*) Sir, one minute, please. This is my last speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have to conclude at 6.00 p.m.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: Sir, I will just finish. I would, therefore, like to reiterate the demand of the hon. Chief Minister of Odisha to confer a 'special focus State' on Odisha and transfer at least 60 per cent of the clean energy cess collected on coal extracted from the State to the State, countering the scourge of natural disasters regularly encountered by Odisha. These are just a few suggestions for kind consideration. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla.

SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you, Sir, for the opportunity to address this House on this Interim Budget for the fiscal year 2024-25. In her presentation, the Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, outlined a vision for a prosperous India, harmonising with nature, modern infrastructure and leveraging the trinity of demography, democracy and diversity. The Budget, rooted in the four pillars, seeks to establish macro-economic stability, drive capital expenditure for infrastructure, empower the poor youth, women and farmers and foster job creation. It is worth mentioning that the Government's goal aligns with *Garib, Yuva, Annadata* and *Narishakti*. Emphasizing the transformative journey of the Indian economy over the past decade, she highlighted the structural reforms, pro-people programmes and a renewed sense of purpose. This *disha nirdeshak* Budget aims at *Viksit Bharat*, an India where opportunities are created for all, supported by the principles of '*Sabka Prayas*'. The effort inspires us, but achieving it necessitates recognizing regional realities. I state this today representing the unique needs and aspirations of the State of Andhra Pradesh.

In her Budget, the Finance Minister has allocated Rs. 9,138 crores for railway projects in Andhra Pradesh, which is very commendable. This reflects a substantial increase compared to the earlier Budgets. The commitment demonstrated through a

total investment of Rs. 68,000 crores underscores the Government's dedication for enhancing the rail infrastructure. Our State is experiencing a robust transformation in railway infrastructure, marked by the commendable achievement of 97 per cent electrification completion. Rapid pace of laying 246 kilometres of rail tracks annually, along with several ROBs and RUBs, showcases a focused effort. The establishment of one-station-one-product stalls under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme is a commendable initiative. It is concerning to note the absence of any mention regarding the operationalization of the South Central Railway Zone. Despite the submission of the DPR by the relevant authorities to establish the new Zone, progress has not been made. We want the Government of India, the Finance Minister and the Railway Minister to look into it. I urge the Government to expedite the operationalisation of this Zone at the earliest.

The PM Gati Shakti Scheme aimed to transform India's infrastructure and logistics sector by streamlining planning and execution of projects to reduce logistics costs needs to put more focus on it. The scheme encountered significant challenges. India's high logistical costs, amounting to 13 per cent of the GDP, have diminished our export competitiveness. This is very important to bring Gati Shakti Scheme on track very urgently. Low credit off-take and several other identified problems have put only two out of 16 identified Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals operational in Andhra Pradesh and the data on the estimated employment post-operationalisation of these terminals are also not encouraging. It is very crucial to address these structural issues and macroeconomic stability concerns. I would urge commissioning of more Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals in Andhra Pradesh with more focus in the current Budget.

On income tax, Sir, the Interim Budget maintained existing tax slabs but introduced an income tax remission scheme under Section 87A, aiming to alleviate the tax burden for those earning between Rs.5 lakh and Rs.7.5 lakh. However, Rs.12,500 relief is inadequate amid rising living costs.

There is a need for the Government to consider providing more substantial income tax relief for the middle class and salaried individuals, considering the rising cost of living. This would significantly impact the disposable income and spending power of our citizens.

Despite Andhra Pradesh Government appeals, a discrepancy in population coverage under the NFSA persists. It is excluding almost 1.47 crore rice cardholders. We urge the Central Government to re-examine the methodology and include these deserving individuals in the scheme, ensuring food security for all citizens of our State.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA: Sir, I think you have given me eight minutes. A few other things are left.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you are sharp enough to conclude early.

SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA: Sir, I will just put it across. We want the Government to put focus on the Central Agricultural University for Andhra Pradesh. Also, put focus on Polavaram Irrigation Project. For that, further funding certainly needs to be given. For that, Revised Cost Estimate needs to be looked into.

Next is support for aqua industry. Andhra Pradesh has best potential for this. For that, investment needs to be looked at.

Spending on health and education needs to be improved. The State has brought a lot of investment. We need to put that in. With this, I conclude, Sir. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri A.D. Singh. Five minutes.

SHRI A. D. SINGH (Bihar): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to certain areas. As we know, most of the countries in our neighbourhood are antagonistic to our country. I found that the Defence Budget is only 1.89 per cent of the GDP. Most of the money out of it goes to the payment of salaries and pension, and very little is left for modernisation of Army, Navy and Air Force. This percentage is far less than what is being spent in the neighbourhood by China, Pakistan, etc. I would request the hon. Finance Minister that at least we should spend four per cent of the GDP on defence so that we can quickly modernise our Army, Navy and Air Force for the security of the country.

We have the Border Roads Organisation. The Government is laying border roads of 1 km or 2 km or 5 km length near Indo-China Border. The money allotted to the BRO is only Rs.6,500 crore which I find is too little. In this kind of prevailing situation, I request the hon. Finance Minister to make more allocation for that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. You have already made two important points.

SHRI A.D. SINGH: I have just seen that in the year 2022-23, all of a sudden, the investment in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir rose to Rs.2,153 crore from

Rs.500 crore. So, we would like to know where this money is being spent. Another thing is regarding Kisan Samman Nidhi which is about Rs.6,000 for the farmers. I think that this is too low an amount for any farmer to get. So, I request the hon. Prime Minister that at least Rs.24,000 per farmer should be given so that they know that they have some sort of money from the Government. 29 labour laws have been amalgamated into four Labour Codes but they are not implemented because the rules are not there. The number of scholarships for students of minorities has not increased from 2013-14. I think the Government should have a relook at it. Then, the total liability of the Centre has more than doubled from Rs.90.84 lakh crore to Rs.183.67 lakh crore between 2018-19 and 2024-25. According to the International Monetary Fund data, the general Government debt, that is, combined domestic and external liability of both the Centre and the States, is in excess of 80 per cent of India's GDP. During UPA regime, debt -to-GDP ratio fell to a low of 66.4 per cent in 2010-11; it rose gradually to 66.7 per cent in 2013-14 and 70.4 per cent in 2018-19. During the current NDA regime, debt-to-GDP ratio rose to 88.5 per cent in 2020-21 at its peak. So, the country is under heavy debt. Each and every citizen has a huge debt on his head. I think the Government has to take a serious look at this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Singh.

SHRI A.D. SINGH: Sir, one last point. There are two small things which I want. Particularly in areas which are suffering from water shortage like South Bihar and other agricultural areas, the Government is not spending any money for reviving the water bodies which used to be there from time immemorial. In the case of the Ministry of Health, though our respected Prime Minister (*Time-bell rings.*) wants *atmnirbharta* in the purchase of equipment, we should allow them to import high-tech equipment, which is not made in India. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Elamaram Kareem; two minutes. ...(*Interruptions*)... Actually, I thought one minute was good enough for you knowing your intellect. Your party has four minutes. If only one speaker, then you have four minutes. Earlier, we had also listed Dr. V. Sivadasan. So, now, you have four minutes. You get the benefit of his absence.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, Interim Budget presented by the Finance Minister is an attempt to conceal the harsh realities faced by the nation behind a veil of false claims. There is no concrete plan in the Budget to overcome the challenges

faced by our nation. People have realized that the tall claims made in the Budget are simply false statements. The Finance Minister claimed that the BJP Government, which has been ruling the country for the past ten years, has taken India forward but the reality is just contrary. In the Budget, there is the Minister's rhetorical exercise to hide the collapse of the economy despite claims of a 50 per cent increase in average income and moderate inflation; the ground truth reveals a different narrative characterized by soaring prices of essential goods and widespread unemployment. If the size of the economy is the criteria, Pakistan and Bangladesh are better than Finland and New Zealand but when we look at the Human Development Index, Finland ranks 11th and Pakistan at 161. According to the parameters of the BJP Government, it has to be said that Pakistan is better than Finland. That is the difference between the claims. The Finance Minister said in her speech that they would bring the full Budget in the next July. It would remain as a dream in the mind of the Finance Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is never going to happen. After the *Pran Pratishtha* in Ayodhya, they think that everything is in favour for the BJP for the next election and nothing has to be done further. ...*(Interruptions)*... But it would not work out. In this Budget, there is not a single mention about the workers. The 60 crore strong workforce of India did not find a place in this Budget. They are the real wealth-makers. This is pro-corporate Budget and all our Public Sector Undertakings are to be handed over to the corporates. That is the recommendation, that is the proposal in this Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Finance Minister claims that this is pro-farmer and pro-poor Budget. In the Budget allocation, the allocation for farming sector has drastically reduced. The allocation for agriculture sector in 2022-23 was Rs.4,68,290 crores. In 2024-25, it is Rs.3,63,944 crores. The total subsidy in 2022-23 was Rs.5.7 lakh crores.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up. ...*(Time-bell rings.)*...

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: In 2024-25, it is Rs.4.09 lakh crores. Food subsidy in 2022-23 was Rs.2.72 lakh crores. In 2024-25, it is Rs.2.05 lakh crores. ...*(Time-bell rings.)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: That is the picture, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Four minutes are over.
...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: So, only with Ayodhya they cannot win the next election.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have said so. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: I am concluding, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have said so. ...*(Interruptions)*... Dr. M. Thambidurai.
...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Please, I am concluding. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. M. Thambidurai, three minutes.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (Tamil Nadu): Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Interim Budget of Jammu and Kashmir and also the General Budget.

Sir, the Central Government and the State Government, both are taxing nowadays. Now, the Budget Session is going on here; the State Governments are conducting -- in Tamil Nadu, today, some of the MPs are making a *dharna* as they could not get the money from the Central Government. But, at the same time, if you see the Budget of the Tamil Nadu, what they are doing is, they are all taxed heavily by the DMK Government on house tax, property tax, electricity bill, transport and even on the liquor price; they have increased all. The common man is suffering in Tamil Nadu. Whatever the DMK promised in their election manifesto, they could not fulfil and are sidelining the people. Take, for example, the flood situation that took place. Hon. Finance Minister visited and hon. Home Minister visited. Then, DMK MPs met the Home Minister. They are satisfied, they are going to get money. Now, in the media, they are telling that the Central Government has not allocated it. I want to know from the Central Government: Have they allocated any funds for relief or not? They have to clarify that. It is the bounden duty of the State Government of Tamil Nadu. They cannot put the blame on the Central Government. They have to spend the money. Recently, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu visited Spain. He said Rs.3,000 crores are coming as investment. I do not know if it is a fact. It is for the Government to clarify if that money has to come towards Tamil Nadu. Also, you

know, when our Edappadi Palaniswami was ruling, at that time, he gave a lot of relief to the farmers. He is a farmer, he comes from a farmer family. He is a worker and he knows the problems of the farmers. Edappadi Palaniswami, like Amma and MGR, gave a lot of relief to the farmers but the DMK Government failed through all these things and * the people of Tamil Nadu. Therefore, I want to know from the Central Government what are the things going on in Tamil Nadu.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Is it a fact? What they are doing, I want to know that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Only one minute, Sir.

5.00 P.M.

Sir, I want to, once again, say that the DMK Government has failed to fulfill all their election promises.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You said so. Why repeat? You said so.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: They got the vote and * the Tamil Nadu people. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Jawhar Sircar; ten minutes.

SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR (West Bengal): Please, Sir, this is one opportunity we get in the whole year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, please.

SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR: Sir, thank you very much, but I would like to start by asking the Government, our Government, that is, the Government of people of India as to what exactly is the GDP growth now. The impression that we get is that it is at its highest ever in history, that we are about to reach \$5 trillion and \$3 trillion and we will

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

be number one in no time, if we get elected. But, that is not a fact, and I would like to place on record that the growth of GDP under the UPA's tenure had been over 8 per cent, 8.1 per cent. The growth of GDP under this Government in the last nine years has been just 5.5. That is not bad. But, it is 5.5 per cent, and 5.5 per cent is less than 8.1 per cent. This year, it may reach a very high level of 7.3 per cent but it does not destroy the averages. We need to be clear about statistics, instead of misleading the people. The problem is that there is a feeling that everything began from 2014. And, everything began from 2014 and before 2014 was an era of complete darkness. In the previous 67 years, nothing was done. As you know, as mature people, we just cannot go on quibbling these sentences. We have climbed up to the fourth floor and now, we are climbing up to the fifth. But, we need to congratulate ourselves for coming up to the fourth floor in the first place, before we talk about the fifth floor. I have mentioned everything like the GDP growth. What are these 67 years that I keep on hearing? Ten years of those 67 years when there was Janata period and respected Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's period. So, that is 20 years to the NDA Government in some form or the other. We have to get out of this before Modi and after Modi syndrome. I have mentioned fiscal deficit, I have mentioned GDP and I will touch upon fiscal deficit. This is an extremely worrisome trend. It is not in just 5.8 per cent as we mentioned. Government has done and improved it from 5.9 per cent to 5.8 per cent admittedly. It is in terms of absolute money that stays on my taxi meter. I have to pay for it with borrowings. This is the Government that lives on debt. It is like saying that somebody is wearing the neighbour's *Banarasi Saree* or somebody is wearing the neighbour's suit and claiming that देखो, मैं कितना सुंदर हूँ। This is not on because that is not yours but it is somebody else's. You have borrowed it.

In 2019, it was heartening to see that the Government made a pledge that we will keep fiscal deficit within three per cent of GDP. That is a very heartening step because three per cent is difficult to keep. But, this Government made this pledge. Earlier Governments had also made pledges but that pledge has gone for a six, a complete six. Last year, it was 6.4 per cent, double of 3 per cent. This is accumulated debt, my family debt that I have to carry. Right now, the total debt burden of India stands at Rs. 164 lakh crores, domestic debt, and I am not even including the foreign debt. It is Rs. 164 lakh crores which means that हर हिंदुस्तानी को 1 लाख 17 हजार रुपये का कर्ज वापस देना है। This Government has put this burden on the people of India. You can reach a GDP of \$5 trillion. We should reach a GDP of \$5 trillion but not at the cost of such heavy borrowing. Sir, you know, what is the quantum of borrowing? The quantum of borrowing is exactly the size of the Budget

ten years ago. Ten years ago, the size of the Budget was this. The problem is on taxation.

On taxation, we are one of the lowest tax countries. I am not suggesting that go on increasing the tax on the common citizens. The common citizens are already burdened not only with taxation but with GST. I am talking of the exemptions given specifically to the corporate classes. I wish the FM was there, but two hon. MoSs are here. My submission is that Rs.4 lakh crores has been the notional loss--notional loss, incidentally, was coined by one of your favourite bureaucrats--on account of that exemption. Sir, the hon. MoS, the hon. Minister has replied again and again in writing to my questions that Rs.14.5 lakh crores--Rs.14.5 lakh crores is an unimaginable amount, the budget of five to seven States--has been destroyed, has been written off and may come back in inches. What may come back in inches, we may loose by miles. It is Rs. 14.5 lakh crores in the first nine years, we are about to close the tenth. It will be at least Rs. 16 lakh crores. This Rs. 16 lakh crores is common money.

One can say that there is always a loss when you lend money. Of course, there is a loss. Businesses mean that there might be a loss. What is called as the percentage of Gross Non Performing Assets (GNPA), the international standard is one per cent. There are countries after countries that do less than one per cent. Some countries go up to 1.5 per cent, 1.8 per cent, - 1.7 per cent - बस कर दो, मान लो! What is our GNPA? What is our NPA? It went up to 11.5 per cent. What I am trying to hint is that the huge amount of excess GNPA is not what the *babus* or the bankers are telling the hon. Minister that we need that to clean up that account. पहले यह बताओ कि किसने एकाउंट डर्टी किया, किसकी जेब में पैसा गया, किसने लूटा - पहले इस सवाल का जवाब दो? Before you say, मुझे घर साफ करने दो, मुझे घर साफ करने दो, इस पर जो लुटेरे हैं, they are mostly abroad. One Modi, sorry! I don't mean, BAKKI मोदी, I mean Nirav Modi. Nirav Modi is a good example as to how you can loot the banks and go abroad. Choksi, Jatin Shah—I do not know how they are all from the same place, but together, the total loss on account of fraud admitted by the Ministry is running at Rs. 1.17 lakh crores. My State's dues are Rs.1.15 lakh crores and Rs. 1.17 lakh crores has been looted by them. Income-tax result shows that we, common citizens, have paid 76 per cent higher in the last four years and the corporates have paid 24 per cent higher in the last four years.

Just see the corporate bias of this Government. Foreign Direct Investment, बड़ी धूमधाम से बोलते हैं that Foreign Direct Investment has come. Sir, for your kind information, Foreign Direct Investment has fallen from 3.5 per cent of GDP in 2007-08 to one per cent of the GDP now. These are hard realities that we need to consider. It

is not a question of blaming game. This country belongs to both of us. Then remittances. We are surviving on remittances of Indian workers and Indian intellectuals abroad. It has reached about 125 billion according to me. It may be higher, the Ministers can clarify.

Our problem is, our tax to GDP ratio is much too small for a good Welfare State. A Welfare State that looks after health, that looks after education, that looks after everything needs a higher tax to GDP ratio and that is something that can be easily, honestly administered on those who possess wealth and who appear every now and then in the Forbes Magazine as the first richest man and the second richest man. We can do it in a very legal manner to taxing Securitization. They pledge the market value of their shares for 'securities' against bank loan. उसी प्वाइंट पर टैक्स करो। There is nothing equitable about it. I am not much in favour of Wealth Tax, it is a regressive tax. But you can always tax it at that securities point.

The States are being continuously deprived and Finance Commissions have always given between 41 and 42 per cent devolution to the State. इतना बड़ा कमीशन बैठा है, कुल मिलाकर 41 परसेंट या 42 परसेंट ही बनेगा। In this, this has become a source of fear, a source of terror, what we call fiscal terror has been unleashed on the State. Sir, I am mentioning a person in the House by name, if you permit, because he has...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You need to give...

SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR: Okay, Sir, I won't mention the name.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, please.

SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR: I will mention that an official of the Government, of NITI Aayog has said in writing and it is published everywhere that against 42 per cent devolution to the State in 2014, when this Government came to power, he was asked to cut it down by 10 per cent. By 10 per cent by a Chief Minister-turned-Prime Minister! Sir, this is something that we just can't believe that the same person who fought for States, the moment he became PM said, दस फीसदी कम करो, काटो, काटो, स्टेट को इतना मत दिया करो। Our State is one of those that has been picked up for slaughter, picked up for terrorism, fiscal terrorism. Tamil Nadu is another, Kerala is another, Karnataka is another. Sir, it is a Government of cut, cut and cuts. Food subsidy has been cut by 3.3 per cent this year. This year, fertilizer has been cut by more than 10 per cent, fertilizer subsidy! Total cut this year...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR: Sir, I am concluding. The total cut this year is from Rs 5.8 lakh crores to Rs. 4.1 lakh crores. Education has been cut, health has been cut, NREGA has been cut. Where are you spending the money? On capital investment! Capital investment for whom? ...(*Time-bell rings.*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR: The capitalist class has been able to give only 10 per cent of the GDP to capital formation and you are spending money on them. On every sector, there has been a cut. सर, अगर इजाजत है, तो मैं एक बात कहता हूँ। मेरी हिन्दी इतनी अच्छी नहीं है।

“अहंकार में तीन गए सत्ता, वैभव और वंश,
न मानो, तो देख लो रावण, कौरव, कंसा।”

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jawhar Sircarji, you are in confusion about Hindi also. आपकी हिन्दी बहुत अच्छी है।

SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR: Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Binoy Viswam; you have three minutes to speak.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, the Finance Minister was eloquent in her speech and promises were again showered here. Sir, the area was repeated in different words, the very same Modi's guarantees. The country has the right to ask everybody in the Government, what has happened to the earlier guarantees - guarantees for employment, guarantees on the poor, guarantees for the women, guarantees for the housing, for health care, all the guarantees are forgotten. They are dead and lost on the States. Again, the PM is travelling all over the country and repeating the guarantees. In the Parliament also, they have made every opportunity useful for them to repeat the guarantees. The Finance Minister, I really love her and respect her. But, out of the compulsion of politics, she is also repeating the same guarantees here. But, what has happened to it? On food subsidy, it was mentioned here, there are cuts. For the agricultural sector, all the benefits are cut. For the fertilizer subsidy, it is cut. For the common man's health care, again cuts. And, this Government doing this kind of cut on the poor! The country can ask as to whose Government is

this. This is a Government of the super rich. This is a Government that always forgets the rights of the workers and the poor. And, the Government is continuing these promises. Sir, on 16th February, the country will witness a *bandh* by the rural poor. On the same day, a strike will be there, by the workers of all sectors of the industry. That means the country is on a revolt. Sir, today, the Kerala people have come here for a big strike at the Jantar Mantar. Yesterday, the Karnataka Government had come here. Yesterday, the Prime Minister told that we are dividing the country into North and South, no. We are unifying the country as one and one. From North to South and from East to West, the country has come together to fight against the norms and rules of the Modi-led Government. ...(*Time-bell rings.*)... This Government is not for India's unity. Sir, Kerala is often being treated in a very bad way. Our rights are being taken off. All the figures that our hon. Finance Minister is going to repeat here, are far from reality. Whatever we have achieved as a State, we are now being punished for that. Give us our due share. We have a right. We are a part of India. And for that right, we demand our share from Government of India. But, Government of India is giving shabby reasons which are unfounded and telling that we have given, we have given. Where is that money? You have given the money to big people. Your interests are well-known to everybody. This is the Government of Adani and Adani Government cannot be justful for the poor and for the nation. ...(*Time-bell rings.*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Viswam. The next speaker is Shrimati Vandana Chavan; not present. The next speaker is Dr. Ashok Kumar Mittal; you have four minutes.

डा. अशोक कुमार मित्तल (पंजाब): माननीय सभापति महोदय, आपने मुझे फाइनेंस बिल पर बोलने की अनुमति दी, इसके लिए आपका धन्यवाद। सर, चर्चा में बहुत सारे सदस्यों ने बात की कि भारत दुनिया की पांचवीं सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था बन गया है, जो appreciable है और हर भारतीय को इस पर गर्व है। मैं भारत सरकार और देश के हर नागरिक को इस बड़ी अचीवमेंट के लिए बधाई देना चाहूंगा। सर, कुछ ऐसे इश्यूज हैं, जो अभी तक unattended हैं। उनके ऊपर मैं भारत सरकार का थोड़ा सा ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा।

माननीय प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने 3 जनवरी, 2019 को इंडियन साइंस कांग्रेस की अध्यक्षता करते हुए देश को एक नया नारा दिया। उन्होंने जय जवान, जय किसान, जय विज्ञान में जय अनुसंधान जोड़ा और मैं खुशकिस्मत हूँ कि मैं उस नारे का साक्षी हूँ, क्योंकि वह Lovely Professional University के प्रांगण में दिया गया। हमारी माननीया वित्त मंत्री जी ने इस बजट में स्पीच के दौरान इस नारे को दोहराया और कहा कि हम साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी में आगे गए हैं, जोकि सही है, लेकिन इस पर मेरा माननीया मंत्री जी से एक निवेदन है कि जो हम साइंस एंड

टेक्नोलॉजी पर खर्चा कर रहे हैं, वह जीडीपी का सिर्फ 0.7 प्रतिशत है। इस स्मॉल खर्च से हमने दुनिया में अपना कीर्तिमान स्थापित किया, चाहे वह चंद्रयान है। अगर इस पर थोड़ा सा खर्चा बढ़ा देंगे, तो शायद हम साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी में भी अनुसंधान के जरिए दुनिया की नम्बर वन कंट्री बन पाएं।

सर, कुछ और विषय हैं। हम ईज़ ऑफ़ डूइंग बिज़नेस और ईज़ ऑफ़ लिविंग की बात करते हैं, लेकिन ग्लोबल रिमोट वर्क इंडेक्स की रैंकिंग में हम 164 देशों में से 108वें नम्बर पर हैं। सर, हम 80 करोड़ लोगों को मुफ्त राशन देने और 25 करोड़ लोगों को गरीबी से बाहर निकालने की बात करते हैं। ग्लोबल हंगर इंडेक्स में हम 125 देशों में से 111वें नम्बर पर हैं। सर, हम युवा शक्ति और demographic dividend की बात करते हैं।

श्री सभापति: मित्तल साहब, यह ग्लोबल हंगर इंडेक्स कौन तैयार करता है, इसकी क्या authenticity है, क्या credibility है, वे क्या calibration करते हैं, इसके बारे में हमें कुछ सोचना पड़ेगा। मैं पहले भी कह चुका हूँ, in this House, we cannot generate an eco system taking cue from any report. Anyone in any part of the globe can calibrate us; we are not subject to calibration by anyone and everybody. We have to look at our home. We know the situation about hunger. Just see the position which has been reflected; please go ahead.

डा. अशोक कुमार मित्तल: जी, सर। हम खुशहाल किसान की बात करते हैं, लेकिन नेशनल सेम्पल सर्वे के हिसाब से 50 प्रतिशत एग्री होल्ड्स पर कर्जा है और एवरेज कर्जा 74,000 रुपये का है। सर, हम आत्मनिर्भर भारत की बात करते हैं, लेकिन चीन से हमारा इम्पोर्ट 14 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ गया है, जबकि चीन के एन्वॉय ने भी कल यह बात कही है।

सर, हम बात करते हैं कि टैक्स भरने वालों की संख्या 7 करोड़ से ऊपर हो गई है, लेकिन हमारा tax to GDP ratio अभी भी सिर्फ 6.11 परसेंट है, जो कि ओईसीडी कंट्रीज़ के औसत 34 प्रतिशत से भी बहुत नीचे है। सर, हम रिकॉर्ड एफडीआई की बात करते हैं, जो कि प्रशंसनीय है, लेकिन हमारा एक्सटर्नल डेब्ट पिछले 10 वर्षों में तीन गुना बढ़ा है। यह वर्ष 2014 में जहाँ 55 लाख करोड़ था, वह अब 183 लाख करोड़ हो गया है। सर, हम "सबका साथ, सबका विकास, सबका विश्वास" की बात करते हैं, लेकिन हमारी इकोनॉमी की जो ग्रोथ है, वह के-शेड है, जिसमें सिर्फ 5 प्रतिशत वेल्डिएस्ट लोगों के पास 60 प्रतिशत वेल्थ है। सर, हम 'आयुष्मान भारत' की बात करते हैं, लेकिन हमारा स्वास्थ्य बजट सिर्फ 94 लाख करोड़ है, जो जीडीपी का सिर्फ 1.6 परसेंट है। सर, हम लोग एयरपोर्ट्स की बात करते हैं, जो हमने खूब बनाए हैं, लेकिन ऑपरेशनल एयरपोर्ट्स कितने हैं और उसकी परिभाषा क्या है, यह अभी तक हमें समझ में नहीं आया है। हमारे जालंधर में आदमपुर एयरपोर्ट 'ऑपरेशनल' की कैटेगरी में आता है, लेकिन वहाँ से तीन साल से कोई उड़ान नहीं भरी गई है। सर, इन सब बातों के बावजूद मैं निराश नहीं हूँ। मुझे मालूम है कि हम सबको मिल कर काम करना है, भारत को एक सुपर पावर बनाना है और विश्व गुरु बनाना है।...(समय की घंटी)... आने वाली सरकार, चाहे वह किसी भी पार्टी की हो, उससे मुझे उम्मीद है कि वह इन सभी समस्याओं को हल करेगी।

सर, अंत में मैं भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के उन चार स्तंभों का जिक्र करना चाहूँगा, जिनके बारे में माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने भी कहा है। मैं गरीब आदमी, किसान, युवा और महिलाओं के बुलंद हौसलों को सलाम करता हूँ और उनकी तरफ से इन पंक्तियों से अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ:

"मेरे सपनों की उड़ान आसमां तक है,
मुझे बनानी अपनी पहचान आसमां तक है,
कैसे हार मान लूँ और मैं थक कर बैठ जाऊँ,
मेरे हौसलों की बुलंदी आसमां तक है।"
धन्यवाद, सर।

(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman to reply to the discussion.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I understand that a total of 33 Members have spoken, and today, distinctly, on the Finance Bill, about nine speakers have spoken. I thank all the Members who have contributed to this debate. Although the Budget Speech and the Finance Bill, all have come with the spirit of Vote on Account and Interim Budget, there are aspects on which hon. Members have spoken. While just highlighting some features of the Interim Budget and not going into greater details, I will try to respond to as many Members who have spoken on the subject. Sir, this is about the Interim Budget of the Government of India and Supplementary Demands for Grants for the current, running year, 2023-24, for the Government of India, and we are also dealing with J&K's Budget, Interim Budget for a part year 2024-25, as much as we are talking about Supplementary Demands for Grants of J&K. So, we are dealing with four Bills plus the Finance Bill which, on being passed, will become the Act. So, totally five different legislative things we are talking about. Sir, the highlight of the Interim Budget is that we are indicating clearly the emphasis given on capital expenditure for (i) immediately after COVID to revive the economy, and (ii) subsequently after a year or two to sustain the good pace at which the Indian economy is growing. The route that we are taking is to spend on public infrastructure creation, asset creation because that, as opposed to spending on revenue expenditure, gives you better returns for the investment made. I was a bit astonished to hear hon. Member, Jawhar Sircar, probably confused capital expenditure with expenditure on 'capitalists'. The capital expenditure is spent on creating assets which can be used by all citizens equally and they are common infrastructure which improves the ease of living for everybody and gives access to farmers, access to

small manufacturers to reach the nearest port of call or railway station or market yard in a better way, in a smoother way in a short time. So, it is a bit worrying. That is because, I presume, somebody who has had a long tenure in bureaucracy, by mistake, — I would like to believe — mixes up capital expenditure with expenditure on capitalists. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR: Sir, I would like to say...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I have heard him. He should allow me to speak now. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Sircar. I will not allow it.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, this is becoming a bit too much. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Mr. Sircar. I will not allow it. We have to believe in some procedure. ...(*Interruptions*)... Yes; hon. Minister.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I have to be bold when something wrong is said here. Sir, this kind of distortion to certain terminologies which are used in the Budget cannot be — they have been used even earlier; I am sorry to submit, you may correct me, Sir -- without an intent which is not completely *bona fide*. This is not acceptable at all. And, if ideology drives us to say it, please, let us have it and say that.

Hon. Members, I respond to hon. Member, Shri Randeep Surjewala who has raised a lot of relevant and pertinent questions on agriculture. I will, certainly, give him as much answer as is possible for me. But, to give a twist — even tongue-in-cheek twist — in an august House like this, I want the Chair to take a view on it. It is because, ultimately, all of us are seeking answers, trying to give solutions, and if answers are not up to it, I am very well ready to accept corrections. But, this type of twisting of words worry me a lot, because all of us are sitting and hearing one another with seriousness. We wanted to address it. I am sorry to begin like this, Sir.

Therefore, the highlight of the Interim Budget, being 'Interim' as it may, is to underline the fact that during recovery and post-recovery, we are able to sustain a good growth for the economy and have a greater multiplier effect, without us having

to spend on revenue expenditure which gives less return for a rupee. And, I am basing it on the RBI's study. If, on a rupee spent on revenue expenditure, you get hardly Rs. 0.98 only; meaning, for every rupee spent, not even 98 paise return comes. Whereas, when you spend on capital expenditure, for every rupee spent, you get about Rs. 1.46 return in the short duration and in the medium and long-term also, there is return. And, therefore, the route of spending money through the public investment in infrastructure gives us a greater return and, *in-situ*, it create jobs. Sir, wherever projects are done and where public money is spent, jobs are created, local services also benefit and that ripple effect in that ecosystem can have a greater impact on the neighbouring economies which are smaller pockets which can become like ripples in a pond. Therefore, this route, globally, has been adopted as one sure shot way in which you can get sustainable growth and we are seeing it. Therefore, even in this Budget, we have committed to spend about 17 per cent higher than even the current year's RE. We are spending 17 per cent more for the coming year. Then, that same outlay is higher than the projected GDP growth rate of 10.5 per cent during the next financial year. So, if you are projecting a GDP growth rate, the growth in the capital expenditure for creation of public infrastructure is growing faster than the real GDP growth itself. It is the projected number.

Sir, with capital expenditure being the focus, equally, particularly in the last three to four years, we have made sure our debt management and also the overall management of the fiscal is done in such a way that we honour the glide path for the fiscal deficit that we had given in 2021. So, if the glide path for the fiscal deficit had to take one particular trajectory and come down in a particular fashion, we have complied with that. That was approved by the hon. Houses of Parliament and we complied with that. This year, actually, I could have stopped after reaching 5.9 per cent, which is complying with it, but we brought it down further by one decimal point, and instead of 5.9 per cent, this year, we have given a fiscal deficit number of 5.8 per cent. Similarly, for the forthcoming year, where it could have been 5.2 per cent, we have made an effort to bring it down to 5.1 per cent without, in any way, compromising on expenditure, particularly on welfare and also taking care of the rural economy. So, I would like to highlight these two points for the benefit of the House. And, when I said that, we are also making sure that the fiscal deficit will be managed without hurting any of those projects that are important. I just want to quote selection of projects and schemes which will showcase that the cut has not at all happened in any of these projects or schemes. It is not that in order to make sure that the fiscal deficit is managed, we are trimming down on these. It is not so. So, for instance, for the Department of School Education and Literacy, the BE of 2023-24, the current

year, had Rs.68,805 crores; and, what we have given now in the BE in the Interim Budget for the coming year is Rs. 73008 crores. It has not come down; it has gone up. Then, the Department of Health and Family Welfare had the BE of Rs. 86,175 crores in 2023-24; now, it is Rs. 87,657 crores. It has not come down; it has gone up. The Ministry of Minority Affairs had a BE of Rs. 3,098 crores in 2023-24; now, it is Rs. 3,183 crores. The Department of Rural Development, which is so significant for many of the rural-based projects, had a BE of Rs. 1,57,545 crores in 2023-24; now, it has gone up to Rs. 1,77,566 crores. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs had a BE of Rs. 12,462 crores in 2023-24; now, it has gone up to Rs. 13,000 crores. The Department of Social Justice and Empowerment had a BE of Rs. 12,847 crores in 2023-24; now, it is Rs. 13,000 crores. The Ministry of Women and Child Development had a BE of Rs. 25,449 in 2023-24; now, it is Rs. 26,092 crores for the BE of the coming year.

Now, I come to major capital allocations, which generate employment, which create assets, which give better market linkages for farmers, and which also provide better connectivity so that ease of living is also highlighted for common citizens. Rs. 2,58,606 was the BE allocation for Road, Transport & Highways; whereas, now, in the Interim Budget, it is Rs. 2,72,241 crores. For Railways, the BE allocation was Rs. 2,40,000 crores; now, it is Rs. 2,52,000 crores. For Defence, the BE was Rs. 1,71,375 crores; now, it is Rs. 1,82,241 crores.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

States were given funds with interest-free proposition and also that it will be given for 50 years where they don't need to service the loan. Rs.1,30,000 crores was done in the BE of 2023-24. We have retained that Rs. 1,30,000 crores. So, States are actively participating in asset creation with public money. This money is given by us. They themselves would also invest in capital expenditure. So, over and above what the States would put — that is not a condition — we have allocated this much. As per a formula given for the tax devolution, so is the formula used for this also so that every State gets a bit of the capital expenditure allocation.

Sir, now I will talk about the 'Allocation for major flagship schemes.' PM Kisan, about which hon. Member, Surjewala, spoke about, and I will, certainly, reply him, but I want to tell, Rs. 60,000 crores was allocated in the Budget Estimates, 2023-24. It continues to be Rs. 60,000 crores even now for 2024-25. PM Awas Yojana (Rural), Rs. 54,487 crores is now Rs. 54,500 crores. PM Awas Yojana (Urban) which was Rs. 25,103 crores is now Rs. 26,171 crores. Jal Jeevan Mission was Rs. 70,000 crores in the Budget Estimates and now it is Rs.70,163 crores. Rural

Employment Guarantee Scheme, the MNREGA, was Rs. 60,000 crores in BE 2023-24 and now it is Rs. 86,000 crores in 2024-25 BE. Gram Sadak Yojana which was Rs. 19,000 crores is kept at Rs. 19,000 crores. Samagra Shiksha which was Rs. 37,453 is now Rs. 37,500 crores. PLI Schemes was Rs. 8,965 crores and now it is Rs. 16,021 crores. So, no major scheme, no major flagship scheme, has been curtailed nor have we reduced the allocation.

Sir, if I talk about the Supplementary, this is the second and the final batch of Supplementary for this year, 2023-24, and, in that, primarily, there are 71 Demands and one Appropriation. But where does this money go? If the House passes this Supplementary Demands for Grants, where does this money go? Rs. 3,000 crores goes for nutrient-based subsidy scheme for P&K fertilizers. The Department of Food and Public Distribution for *PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana* gets Rs. 9,231 crores; Defence Services, for their revenue expenditure, which is for meeting additional expenditure towards pay and allowances of Armed Forces and other establishment expenditure requirements such as stores, transportation and ECHS, get Rs. 13,548 crores. The Department of Economic Affairs gets Rs. 5,000 crores. That is for transfer to Senior Citizens Welfare Fund.

'Transfers to Jammu and Kashmir'; they have asked for Rs. 3,000 crores. That is for essentially meeting additional expenditure towards Central assistance to the Union Territory for bridging their resource gap. So, Sir, these are the features.

Sir, I just want to highlight the Jammu-Kashmir Interim Budget and also the Supplementary Demands for Grants. The Vote on Account has come for seeking the approval of the House for Rs. 59,364 crores. Their BE for total 2024-25 is Rs. 1,18,728 crores. Of that, they have sought the Vote on Account for Rs. 59,364 crores. The Central Government will provide Rs. 41,751 crores to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for the year 2023-24 —that is the current year — and Rs. 37,278 crores in the year, 2024-25, as assistance to the Union Territory. And their Supplementary Demands for Grants which I, for a moment, said from our books, is Rs. 8,713 crores, and that is mainly for repayment of debt and power procurement. So, these are the highlights of all the four Budgets, Interim and Supplementary, Government of India and J&K.

Sir, I will also, for a moment, speak about what are the main features of the Finance Bill this time. With that, I would have addressed the features of all the Bills. The main feature of the Finance Bill with all the taxes remaining the same -- we have not changed the rates at all — is that there are certain changes to the TCS regime, the Tax Collection at Source regime, which we have made in the Finance Act of 2023. And, thereafter, some changes were announced through a press release, as a matter

of clarification, on 28th June, 2023. But that clarification was regarding the remittances under the Liberalized Remittance Scheme, the LRS, and on sale of overseas tour packages or travel program packages. In line with the announcements made, amendments have been proposed in the Finance Bill, which was an announcement already made. The mention was already made in the last year's Budget. But this is the Finance Bill through which we are coming up with those changes. The second one, Sir, which is worth noting, is the startups. Certain startups are eligible for some tax benefits if they are incorporated before 1st April, 2024, that is, this year. The period of incorporation of such eligible startups is proposed to be extended by one year, that is, if they register or incorporate their company by 1st April, 2025, they will still be eligible for those tax benefits. So, we have just given that one extension. Similarly, for units located in the international financial services centre, we had earlier said that if they are established before 31st March, 2024, those tax incentives will be available for them, but now we are extending them also till 31st March, 2025. That is the second change which is being brought through the Finance Bill. The third one, Sir, is an extension again, of limitation date of investments being made in India by the Sovereign Wealth Funds and Pension Funds, which also attracted some benefits, that is, if they have invested in the infrastructure sector, they are also getting extended till 31st March, 2025. The last one, which is of very important consequence for the middle class, the small taxpayers, is a very big issue which I want to highlight. It is proposed to remit small, unverified demands up to Rs. 25,000, which relate to financial year 2009-10 and also earlier years. Just to remind hon. Members, some months ago, there was a lot of discussion about some tax claims being made that pertained even to 1962, 1970 and 1980. They asked, 'how come the tax is being claimed now for those past several years?' So, those are getting addressed in this and there are demands pertaining to the financial year 2009-10 and also 2010-11. Similarly, the demands for 2010-11 of up to Rs. 10,000 are also proposed to be withdrawn. So, it will be a big relief for small taxpayers who, for very long years, were being pestered for some dues, like Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000, which accumulated to Rs. 25,000 and in some other cases Rs. 10,000. So, these are the only changes which are being brought in in this Finance Bill and no tax rates are being amended. Therefore, the discussions that are being held here on these highlighted features and other features are what I wanted to respond to.

Sir, there was this particular discussion by Shri A.D. Singh and Shri Imran Pratapgarhi; I can't see both of them here, but never mind, I will respond to them. In the Lok Sabha, if a Member is not present, I am not expected to answer, but I will highlight some of the points because there are many other Members who may also be

interested in knowing the answer. Sir, the labour force in the country has increased from 49.8 per cent in 2017-18 to 57.9 per cent in 2022-23. In rural areas, labour force has increased from 50.7 per cent in 2017-18 to 60.8 per cent in 2022-23. The workforce in the rural areas increased from 48.1 per cent to 59.4 per cent by 2022-23. So, for the rural areas, unemployment rate has actually decreased from 5.3 per cent in 2017-18 to 2.4 per cent in 2022-23. So, I want this to be laid on the Table for clarity so that when Members raise the issue, this is something which I would request them to take cognizance of. Similarly, women labour force participation has risen to 37 per cent in 2023. It is a substantial increase from 23.3 per cent recorded in 2017-18. So, in a matter of five years, that is where we have gone. It is a surge of 13.7 per cent points during the last five years. Female enrollment in higher education has also increased by 32 per cent since 2014-15. So, there are facts which all of us should take cognizance of. Even as we talk of our Indian economy, there is more work to be done; I grant that. But there are significant progresses being made and we need to take cognizance of it. Again, probably, Shri A.D. Singh and Shri Imran Pratapgarhi had spoken about 'Lakhpadi Didi' and women's participation in that. I want to highlight the fact that currently there are 83 lakh SHGs, with 9 crore women working across the country, with empowerment and self-reliance. In this interim Budget, I have announced to enhance the target for 'Lakhpadi Didi' from 2 crore women to 3 crore women. With Government assistance, we are going to train them in using very many marketing techniques and also to work with them to make them part of GeM portal or market their goods through any of the ONDCs. If they are prepared, through SHGs, we are going to give them training for using drones which can be used in the farms and the fields in the rural areas.

(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

Dr. Santanu Sen, I cannot see him here, had raised this question about retail inflation. The retail inflation, I am glad to say, has declined. In fact, today, one of the newspapers very clearly showed how the cost of '*thali*', a plate of food, has actually come down, particularly, for not the vegetarians but for those who are non-vegetarians. So, the cost is being calculated and today the media carried it. But, here, I am happy to say that retail inflation has declined from an average of 6.8 per cent in April-December, 2022 to 5.5 per cent in the corresponding period of 2023. The RBI also had the Monetary Policy Committee meeting and even they have been indicating that inflation is coming down and it is well within the tolerance band. This is not the first time they are saying this. Last time when they met, also for that period,

they did say it. The core inflation has declined from 5.1 per cent in April, 2023 to 3.8 per cent in December, 2023. Dr. Santanu Sen also spoke about Global Hunger Index. For the benefit of the House, I want to submit humbly that Global Hunger Index is not a balanced approach to measuring hunger. Let us be conscious of it. ...*(Interruptions)*... I would like to humbly submit, as much as it is said that you cannot doubt those agencies, the very proposition of looking at data given by anybody, just as the data given by the Government of India, is that it is subject to peer verification. That is the whole idea of observers, economists and statisticians looking at the data. Just as you treat Government data, nobody is beyond criticism and nobody is beyond critiquing. So...*(Interruptions)*... Let me finish my answer. Sir, I have heard everyone of them. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, sometimes, it is so ridiculous, so farcical that some countries find, according to such calibration, that they are ahead of India. And, they are wary, they are surprised; we need to be cognizant of it. How can we allow any organization to calibrate us, generate an ecosystem and generate an impression? And then, we have illustrious Members, with education abroad, indicating to us; we must believe in them. Very frankly, I appeal to all the Members that this House needs to take note of the ground reality. We must come out of that servility that any agency, without examining that, will indicate where we are, how we are. My health has to be assessed by my doctor. Someone there will say that my health is not good! This is dangerous, let me tell you. The hon. Member is not here. Mr. Kapil Sibal has found a new role and the new role is of a journalist. Now, the distinguished senior advocate becomes a journalist and then goes to a former Governor and evaluates my health, examines my spine. Though the act, of course, is highly despicable-- I do not want to go into it-- yet, can we allow just anyone to engage into these activities? Within the country, we have enough bodies. I do want that there must be proper statistical evaluation and a robust mechanism to evaluate the health of our economy but, surely, we cannot place ourselves in the hands of those bodies. Already, enough damage has been done by them. Every time India's rise is there, trust me; do some homework, and you are capable of doing it, Madam Amee Yajnikji. You will have enough time also after some time. What I mean to say is that we must engage objectively and passionately. ...*(Interruptions)*... I am not looking at it from a political partisan prism. We must learn to have our robust mechanism. We will evaluate ourselves and then we will respond. Anybody anywhere in the globe, working in an inspired manner, motivated by someone else, funded by someone else says it and we take it as the gospel truth. Sorry; it is not correct. We will have a

debate in the next Session on this issue. We will not have this calibration. Now, the hon. Finance Minister.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Thank you, Sir. When I say that it is not a balanced approach to measure hunger, I am giving the reasons as to why I am saying so. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Take your seat, Dr. John Brittas. Nothing will go on record.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, when I say that it is not a balanced approach, I am stating my reasons. The reasons can be rejected, but I, as much as any other Member, would also want to place on record my point because all of us speak responsibly. We bring in data. It is up to the House to hear it and contradict it or accept it, but please hear first. The Global Hunger Index measures multi-dimensional nature of hunger by just relying on four indicators - under-nourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality. It is not a comprehensive index as three of the four parameters focus only on children. The sample size of the study is only 3,000 households. IMR, Infant mortality Rate, is falling in the country from 40.7 in 2015-16 to 35.2 in 2019-21. This is the NFHS Survey, and the sample size is 6.37 lakh households. So, please look at what is the basis with which the study is coming out. Then, as per the NFHS-5, there has been a broad improvement in indicators relating to child health and nutrition with a decline in the proportion of stunted, wasted, underweight children under the age of five. So, a study which we are doing is based itself on 6.37 lakh households compared to 3,000 households. We have a reason to question the methodology. Therefore, I am putting this point out, and each one of us, as Members, who have our own experience in public service, can please look at this and have a peer review done. No objections. And it is not as if everything which is against the Government, we would reject it. These are the data which all of us are going to use. I use data belonging to a period when you were in Government. It is an absolutely common thing to do. I have no objections. But my reasons are these. Then, Sir, India has adopted a universal food security framework to protect its citizens from hunger through PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. In the BE of 2024-25, Rs. 2.05 lakh crores have been given towards food security. This covers 80 crore beneficiaries. They are getting it, and it is definitely the responsibility of the Government. It is not as 'we are giving'. No, not in that sense, but we want to be sure that nobody is left out. But sometimes we are criticized for that as well saying, 'It means you are admitting that 80 crore people are poor'. Please, you can't have it both ways. The data was

then there, and based on that, we are giving it. Somebody else's data which is based on 3,000 household samples is reliable, but that data which the Government of India gives, because it is based on 6 lakh households or more, is not reliable! Anything which is criticizing the Government is good enough. Anything which is actually telling the truth about the Government is rejected. Sorry, यह हिपोक्रेसी नहीं चलेगी। Sir, furthermore, under the PM-POSHAN Scheme, in BE 2024-25, the amount has been increased to Rs.12,467 crores. The primary objective of the Scheme is to improve the nutritional status of children studying in classes I to VIII in eligible schools. So, that is one thing, Sir.

There were questions about inflation, how we are managing it. I have been answering questions in this House. But, I would just want to highlight that in order to enhance access to food, the Government has taken very critical steps, for instance, to make available *aata*, to make available *dal*, to make available onion and to make available rice. Bharat branded *aata*, Bharat branded *dal* and Bharat branded rice are now available in the market. It has been available for some time. I will give you the data for it, Sir. Bharat Aata is available at Rs. 27.50 per kg. I am not just saying the number. Till now, 2.37 lakh metric tons have already been sold in the market as on 28th January, 2024. People have bought it. It is not as if we have made a provision and people are not buying it. People are buying it at that price. To that extent, the prices are cooling down. Bharat Dal is available at Rs. 60 per kg. for one kg pack or Rs. 55 per kg. for a 30-kg bag. In that, 2.97 lakh metric tons, as of 31st January, 2024, have already been sold in the market. Bharat Rice, launched only a few days ago, gives rice at Rs. 29 per kg. Onion is being sold at Rs. 25 per kg. As of 3rd February, 2024, 3.9 lakh metric tons of onions have already been sold.

6.00 P.M.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, now it is 6.00 p.m. The Business Advisory Committee has already recommended that the House may sit beyond 6.00 p.m. to transact the Business listed for the day. Therefore, the time of the House is extended beyond 6.00 p.m. till the disposal of the Business listed for today. Hon. Finance Minister.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Similarly, Tur dal is being imported and Urad dal is being imported. They have been made free category for imports, so that our market does not fall short of pulses. This extension of free category is now available till 31 March 2025. Any trader can import and supply to the market. Similarly, 8.79

lakh metric tonnes of Tur dal has already been imported in the year 2023; 0.38 lakh million tonnes in the month of January 2024 itself till 20 January. They are mainly being imported from Mozambique, Myanmar, Tanzania, Sudan and Malawi. We also import in small quantities from Kenya and Nigeria. India also imported Masoor dal, so that the prices will come down. Sir, 15.14 lakh metric tonnes of Masoor dal from different countries like Australia, Canada and Russia in the year 2023 and 0.84 lakh million tonnes in the month of January 2024 have been imported. Similarly, Urad dal has also been imported. For the steps that the Government have taken to contain inflation and give essential goods at affordable price, this is done through various means. It includes branded products which are marketed through NAFED and Mother Dairy like stores or through open market operations by releasing grains which are in the buffer stock or allowing imports to come into this country so that prices can be contained.

Sir, on transfer to States, Shri A.D. Singh, Dr. Santanu Sen and Shri R. Girirajan asked questions. I don't know if they are here. On the reply, I just want to be sure. Devolution, as is recommended by the Finance Commission, is hundred per cent followed by us. There is no way that any violation has happened. I followed it to the last word. I repeat this. Whatever was recommended by the Finance Commission has already been given as per time and it will be given so till the time of the Finance Commission. In B.E. 2024-25, total resources being transferred to States, including devolution of the States' share from the taxable pool, grants and loans, and releases under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, are all put together expected to be Rs.22,22,264 crore which shows an increase of Rs.4,13,848 crore over the actuals of 2022-23. This is 47 per cent of the Budget of 2024-25. So, payments are happening to the States in time and there are no dues held back. I want to be sure that particular data for Kerala and for Tamil Nadu are mentioned here. Tax devolution between 2004 and 2014 for Kerala was Rs.46,303 crore. This is between 2004 and 2014; ten years. Rs.46,303 crore was the transfer to Kerala. I am here talking about figures ending 22 December 2023. It was just two months ago. It is Rs.46,303 crore for ten years between 2004 and 2014. For 2014-24, only up to December 2023, it is Rs.1,50,140 crore. It is in respect of Kerala. The percentage change is 224 per cent increase. That is tax devolution. This is open for anyone to see. Transfers and all are there. The Reserve Bank is monitoring it. The Government of Kerala can release the figures publicly whether this is received or not. I am not just giving a number which cannot be verified. It has been received. Then, I come to Grants-in-aid from Government of India. From 2004-14, it was Rs. 25,629.70 crore. It was for ten years from 2004 to 2014. From 2014 to 2024, from NDA Government under Prime Minister Modi, Grants-

in-aid from the Government of India to Kerala, compared to Rs.25,000-something crore, is Rs.1,43,117 crore. So, compared to ten years of UPA, in nine years of NDA, there is a 458 per cent increase or 5.58 times increase. So, that is Grants-in-aid. Then, there is release under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure which we commenced from 2020-21 post-Covid. As I said, we are also having capital expenditure funding given to States which is for 50 years interest free. For 2020-21, when we started post-Covid, it was Rs.82 crore. And no Finance Commission has asked me to do this. The Finance Commission has not said that you have to give money to State Governments for capital expenditure. No! Because the recovery of the economy and sustaining the growth of the economy was very high priority, the Prime Minister's guidance to me was that I should give money to States to do their own projects. Therefore, for the first year, it was Rs.82 crore to Kerala; for the second year, 2021-22, it was Rs.239 crore; for 2022-23, it was Rs.1,903 crore. So, all this has been released. Kerala received all this. In addition, an amount of Rs.18,087 crore has also been provided as additional borrowing to the State in 2020-21 in view of the pandemic. So, this is absolutely clear that there is no reduction for Kerala. I want to humbly submit.

Now, I move to Tamil Nadu. Tax devolution for ten years from 2004 to 2014 was Rs.94,977 crore. From 2014 to 2024, it is Rs.2,77,444 crore. I don't know if any Member from Tamil Nadu is here. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sorry! I did not notice. So, it was Rs.94,977 crore during 2004-14; it is now Rs.2,77,444 crore as of December 22, 2023. We still have months to go. That is 192 per cent increase till December, 2023. Again, for the ten-year period, Grants-in-aid from the Government of India was Rs.57,924.42 crore during 2004-14; now, it is Rs.2,30,893 crore. It is four times increase; it is 300 per cent increase. That is ten years of UPA and nine years of NDA. Then comes release of Special Assistance for Tamil Nadu. In the first year, they did not take it. The second year, which is 2021-22, an amount of Rs.505.50 crore was given for capital expenditure. It is interest free for 50 years. Don't worry servicing it. For 2022-23, an amount of Rs.3,263 crore was again given to Tamil Nadu as Special Assistance. It is interest free for 50 years. In 2023-24, the current year, as on 11th December, Rs.2,643.65 crores for Capital Expenditure, interest-free 50 years. So, in respect of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, the figures are before you. ...*(Interruptions)*... Okay. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Thambidurai. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are a senior Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't shout. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, there are two things. ...*(Interruptions)*... Two things I want to.. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Muraleedharan, you are joining them. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: This is the kind of apprehension building... ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Elamaram Kareem, you are a senior Member. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, it is amazing. ...*(Interruptions)*... Madam, one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, there is a problem. ...*(Interruptions)*... You are not on your seat. ...*(Interruptions)*... Even if I want to show indulgence, I can't show. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, hon. Member, Elamaram Kareemji, is a very senior Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, he is a very senior Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, there is no dispute on that.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: And I have two observations to make before I comment. These are not data which I am just releasing for the first time in this House. There are parliamentary questions. There are Budget documents which are put up. Budget documents have breakdown of States, how much every State got under Capital Expenditure, like 50 years and interest-free, everything is there already. The reason why I am saying 'only Kerala' is because Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu have, in the course of discussion, raised it. If they were interested in it, I don't think it will take much of a time, I will get it and read it. This is one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, they can have access to it.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, now, I give you my comment, if you permit me. These are not amounts determined because I like one State and I dislike the

other State. These are the percentages given as per Finance Commission for tax devolution. The same amount, same percentage is used when I have a lump sum which I want to give for 50 years for Capital Expenditure interest-free to all States. How do I divide that among States? The formula is the same formula, which I use for tax devolution, also for dividing this money which is purely not Finance Commission's recommendation but the Government of India wants to give. But the formula, Elamaram Kareemji, through you, I request....*(Interruptions)*... Please, Dr. John Brittas should allow him to hear, I am answering him. So, Elamaram Kareemji should kindly appreciate. It is not my whims and fancies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Finance Minister, have you ever invited Elamaram Kareemji for a cup of coffee?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: No, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any risk element in it? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I didn't invite but I was very happy to receive him several times in my room. Mr. Kareem, hon. Member, has come and met me several times. So, now that you are slightly indicating, I will invite him for a cup of coffee as well. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kareem is the cream of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: So, I want to dispel this myth: "Oh, my State is receiving less, that State is receiving more." I have no role to play in that. It is a number determined by the Finance Commission which is for tax devolution. The same formula, we have taken for something which is not under Finance Commission, which we want to give to the States but there also we don't want any subjective element. The formulation is as given by the Finance Commission. So, why would Kerala get something different from what it gets under tax devolution even on this? So, comparing Gujarat, please, it is available in public domain; go, see it or I can always send it to the hon. Member. It is the formulation. I have Rs.100, I have Rs.1,000, I have Rs.50,000 crores, the formulation is the one given by the Finance Commission. Hon. Member, Randeep Singh Surjewalaji had quite a few issues on agriculture. I am sure that the Agriculture Ministry will be able to give him detailed point-by-point answers but somewhat some of the questions which he raised I would

want to address it as much as I can. I admit here that maybe some issues I may not be in a position this very minute to answer him, I will request the Minister for Agriculture to respond to him because those are issues which are very important and we need to answer it. The first question is, -- I was surprised that this was raised but I will answer it -- about the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi. Why is the number originally twelve point some crores? Why was an answer given by the Finance Ministry saying, "It is nine-and-a-half crores?" My number understanding in Hindi and English may be a bit distorted but I am approximately saying the number that he said. But, the idea being that you started with twelve crores and one of the Parliament replies said साढ़े नौ करोड़, ऐसा ही something, and then there was also this thing, now, you are actually paying only eight point some crores. Essentially, it is trying to say that you are started with twelve, but you are not giving twelve, quite a few have dropped out. In fact, I was carefully listening to him. When you started saying that it was fourteen crores and then when the last payment was made by the hon. Prime Minister on 15th November, 2023, it was 8.93 crores. Then, the Finance Ministry's response was twelve-and-a-half crores और 3.8 करोड़ गायब हो गये हैं, आपने उड़ा दिये, if I heard him right. I want to humbly submit that when the twelfth instalment was given, which is what is probably being referred to as November payment, 2023, seeding the data of land was a mandatory condition. In other words, what is the little possession of land that you have on which you are doing the farming. As a result, only 8.55 crore farmers had seeded the details of their land. As a result, the twelfth instalment was released accordingly. Second, Sir, is during the thirteenth instalment, *Aadhaar*-based payment was made mandatory along with land seeding. There were 8.11 crore farmers who had their land details seeded on the PM-Kisan Portal and their *Aadhaar* was also linked with their active DBT-enabled bank accounts. There are several accounts that a farmer can maintain or anybody can maintain but there is just that one account which is enabled for DBT payment. So, during the thirteenth instalment which was being given, the DBT-enabled bank account, *Aadhaar* linkage and the land details which are seeded are three of them put into the PM-Kisan Portal. So, the thirteenth instalment was released to them. The e-KYC was made mandatory during the fifteenth instalment release of the PM-Kisan Yojana and with this condition, over 8.12 crore farmers received the benefits. So, the validation and the cheques of land seeding, *Aadhaar*-linking with bank accounts and the payment to the eligible beneficiaries are an on-going process, more people doing it, more will get it. To ensure de-duplication, as there were several duplications, these are now being de-duplicated and ineligible beneficiaries being weeded of. That is why, you will find that the numbers vary and these are absolutely recorded numbers which I would like to,

through you, give to the hon. Member. Sir, then, he also had a very serious issue about Minimum Support Price, procurement based on Minimum Support Price actually not happening and so on. So, I, just very quickly, could rustle up some data which I will do now and more information, I will have the Agriculture Minister pass on. During the Rabi marketing season 2014-15, for wheat, Rs.1,400 was the price per quintal. During the Rabi marketing season of 2023-24, which is for the year 2023-24, the price was Rs.2,125 per quintal. The Minimum Support Price for Rabi marketing season 2024-25, which is the oncoming on us, is Rs.2,275. So, in a matter of ten years, from Rs.1,400 to Rs.2,125 to Rs. 2,275 is the per quintal price for MSP for wheat. The cost of production during RMS, that is, Rabi marketing season is Rs.1,128; increase in absolute MSP is Rs.150, margin over the cost is Rs.102. Similarly, I will say for barley, gram, lentil, that is, masur, mustard and safflower. It was Rs. 1,100 in 2014-15, Rs.1,735 in 2023-24 and Rs.1,850 in 2024-25. I am skipping the first two columns. There, the margin over the cost is Rs.60. For gram, it was Rs.3,100, Rs.5,534 and now, it is Rs.5,440. Rs.60, again, is the per quintal margin. For masur, it was Rs.2,950, now it is Rs. 6,425. Rs.89 is the margin; I am saying over the cost in percentage. For mustard, it was Rs.3,050 and now it has gone up to Rs.5,650; 98 per cent margin between these two numbers. Then for safflower; Rs.3,000 went up to Rs.5,650 and now it is Rs.5,800, the MSP for the Rabi marketing season. So, we have constantly kept pace with the cost increase and kept giving higher MSP for farmers. Sir, I would not be mistaken by you, hopefully, and not mistaken also by the Member. I want to say that during the Congress Government in Rajasthan, because there was no MSP-based procurement in Rajasthan of bajra at that time--I would want the hon. Members to recall and correct me if I am wrong--Rajasthan's farmers with their bajra bags were going to Haryana, BJP-ruled Haryana for them to be procured. The Haryana Government was wondering where are all this bajra coming from; our own bajra is this much, and now I am having three times more bajra suddenly for procurement. But they did not send away any farmer without procuring. To your Rajasthan farmers, हरियाणा सरकार ने ऐसा नहीं बोला कि चले जाओ, बल्कि उसने procure किया। राजस्थान काँग्रेस सरकार, Randeep Surjewalaji, I wish he was telling them also this at that time. उस समय procurement नहीं हुआ। अगर आज किसान के बारे में कोई काँग्रेस वाले बोलते हैं, तो मैं उनको याद दिलाना चाहती हूँ कि कर्नाटक सरकार में हमारे येदियुरप्पा जी ने ही पहला एग्रीकल्चर, फार्मर्स बजट पेश किया, फार्मर्स के लिए अलग बजट पेश किया। इसलिए आज किसान के ऊपर मगरमच्छ के आँसू बहाने वाले काँग्रेस के लोग जरा सोच लें। Sir, the last point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: There are also MSP prices for others like bajra, jowar, ragi, maize; it is here. I lay it on the Table. I don't want to take more time of the House. Sir, just one more matter. Binoy Viswamji, whom I respect, I don't know if he is here. He has gone. But, there are other comrades here; so, they will hear it and pass it on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Binoy Viswamji used to be very punctual. There is a function at my residence; to keep up that appointment, he may have left. Valid ground!

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir,... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, MLAs, Ministers, Chief Ministers made a big show here. Please tell us to what is the amount that you released to Karnataka because I am with you. I have to answer there.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I respect the hon. former Prime Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, he is respected countrywide. In my home constituency of Jhunjhunu, he is known to every household.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: And, he is a farmer himself and has been a very active propagandist of millet. He himself has impacted so many of us because of his ragi *mudde*. He is very well known for his farmer concerns. Yesterday, I had given a very detailed press meet. All the details about amounts were released. I also spoke about it in Lok Sabha. But unfortunately, I didn't think I will have the time today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have spoken in Lok Sabha!

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I will, certainly, send it to you even this evening. I was referring to one point about Binoy Viswamji. He is not here, but I am sure the comrades will allow me. He was back again talking about, 'This is Adani Government'. I want to say again one fact. Vizhinjam Port was given by the Congress people to Adani. Adani is invited even by the Congress in Telangana, the new Government. But, they will never tire themselves by saying, "Oh! You are with Adani, Adani..." They invite them. पीछे के दरवाजे से बिज़नेस होता है, मगर allegation हमारे ऊपर लगाते हैं। But, the Communist Government, the Marxists who came to power, if they are really so averse to Adani, why didn't they ask him to get out of

Vizhinjam? The project is going on. ...(*Interruptions*)... So, that is all right! You put the blame on... ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Finance Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)... One minute. ...(*Interruptions*)... Hon. Finance Minister, that narrative decibel is the lowest at the moment. So, you can close on that.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Okay. I should not provoke!

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Okay.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir,...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. ...(*Interruptions*)... Nothing will go on record now. I shall now put the motion regarding consideration of the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2024 to vote. ...(*Interruptions*)... The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2024-2025, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 4 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I move:

That the Bill be returned.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the Appropriation Bill, 2024. The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2023-2024, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2, 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I move:

That the Bill be returned.

The question was put and the Motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2024. The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the services of the financial year 2024-25, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2, 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I move:

That the Bill be returned.

The question was put and the Motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2024. The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the services of the financial year 2023-24, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2, 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I move:

That the Bill be returned.

The question was put and the Motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the Finance Bill, 2024. The question is:

"That the Bill to continue the existing rates of income-tax for the financial year 2024- 2025 and to provide for certain relief to taxpayers and to make amendments in certain enactments, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 13 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Sir, I move:

That the Bill be returned.

The question was put and the Motion was adopted.
