

STATEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ

SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH (Punjab): [&] Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Statement on Thirty-Sixth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj on Action Taken by the Government on recommendations contained in Thirty-second Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on “Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - (PMGSY)” (2022-23) pertaining to the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development).

STATEMENTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

श्रीमती सुमित्रा बाल्मीकी (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अनुसूचित जनजातियों के कल्याण संबंधी समिति (2024-25) के निम्नलिखित विवरणों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिंदी में) में सभा पटल पर रखती हूँ:-

- (i) Final action taken statement of the Government on the recommendations contained in chapter I of the Twenty-eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on “Reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Public Sector Oil Companies and Status of allotment of Petrol and Gas agencies (CNG, PNG, LPG etc) and other related Agencies/ Units to Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes”; and
- (ii) Final action taken statement of the Government on the recommendations contained in chapter I of the Twenty-ninth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Review of Functioning of National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC).”

OBSERVATION BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as we gather in this august House today, from the Chair, I seek to reflect upon a historic milestone in our country’s journey towards democracy.

[&] English Translation of the original speech delivered in Punjabi.

The first sitting of the Constituent Assembly of India was held on this very day, the 9th of December in the year 1946, after its constitution on the 6th December, 1946. This moment mark the beginning of the profound task of crafting the Constitution of India, a document that stands as a corner-stone of our Democratic Republic.

The first meeting of the Constituent Assembly was chaired by Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha who was then the oldest Member and also the oldest parliamentarian in India having served as Member of the Imperial Legislative Council from the year 1910 and also in the Central Legislative Assembly from 1921.

The Constituent Assembly received three messages of felicitations from America, China and Australia which were read out by the Chairman then.

Under the leadership of stalwarts, such as Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Assembly undertook the monumental task of debating and drafting provisions that would guide the destiny of an independent India. They did so with unwavering commitment, often transcending personal and ideological differences in the spirit of nation-building.

This House, the Rajya Sabha, derives its strength and purpose from the very principles enshrined in the Indian Constitution. It is our duty and constitutional ordainment, as Members of Parliament, to uphold and protect these principles, ensuring that the aspirations of those who came before us continue to resonate in the policies and practices of today.

Let us take inspiration from the vision and dedication that the Members of the Constituent Assembly exemplified. Their debates remind us of the value of constructive dialogue, mutual respect and harmony in the House, which are essential for the functioning of parliamentary democracy.

Hon. Members, as we recall the import and significance of this momentous and seminal situation in our history, let us also renew our pledge and commitment to serve the people of India with integrity and diligence, ever mindful of the sacrifices that made our democratic journey possible.

It is an occasion for us to commit and resolve that our actions will be exemplified keeping in view the Preamble of the Indian Constitution, and our dialogue and discourse will be attended with respect for one another in a spirit of deep understanding. I am sure the hon. Members will display very high standards in parliamentary proceedings and functioning so as to be a role model for legislatures all over the country.
