

crores have been allocated for the development of the Railways in Andhra Pradesh. Regarding BPCL Oil Refinery, with Rs.95,000 crores, this mega project is set to power industrial expansion, employment and energy security.

These initiatives indicate our Government's commitment towards the growth of Andhra Pradesh. After five years of complete misgovernance, my people are able to raise their heads in pride as the double engine *sarkaar* of CBN, that is, Nara Chandrababu Naidu garu, and Modiji-3.0 work together to take Andhra towards Swarna Andhra 2047. To achieve this, Andhra Pradesh needs continuous support from the NDA Government at the Centre.

Given the time restrictions, I would like to speak on the issue of fisheries. India holds the position of the second-largest fish producer and aquaculture nation globally, with seafood exports valued at approximately Rs. 60,000 crores. In the recent Budget, our hon. Finance Minister stated her plan to enhance India's competitiveness in the global seafood market by reducing Basic Customs Duty on various ingredients for fish and shrimp feeds manufacturing, etc. My State, Andhra Pradesh, is an important participant in India's markets, accounting for more than 40 per cent of fisheries and related sectors in India. This dedication towards fisheries in Andhra Pradesh can be seen by our State providing concessional power tariffs to aquaculture farms, at a rate of Rs.1.50 per unit only for aqua farms and other concessions to aqua farmers.

Here, I would like to state one thing with your kind permission, Sir. A Member of this august House passed some comments regarding our present Chief Minister, Nara Chandrababu Naidu garu. I would merely like to respond to their allegations by stating that in the race for cases filed and crimes committed, one can stand here a whole day and still not have enough time to cover the misdeeds committed by the other party in Andhra Pradesh over the last five years. With this, I stand here to support the Bills. Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Message from Lok Sabha - Secretary General.

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### MESSAGES FROM LOK SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, with your kind permission, I rise to report that the Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of March, 2025, has agreed to the Amendments made by the Rajya Sabha to (i) the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024, and (ii) the

Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024, at its sittings held on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, and 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, respectively.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, to reply to the discussion.

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**GOVERNMENT BILLS- *Contd.***

**The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2025**

**and**

**The Finance Bill, 2025**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE; AND THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): Sir, I thank all the hon. Members, more than about 30 of them, who have spoken on the Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2025, and the Finance Bill, 2025. Without taking too much of your time in making an opening statement, I will just briefly tell about what specifics are noteworthy in the Finance Bill, and post that, I will try to address the Members who have raised issues or sought clarifications on some of the specifics in the Finance Bill.

The Finance Bill, 2025, actually continues with the philosophy of our Government, whereby we want to provide tax certainty. We also want to take Ease of Doing Business related steps, and that is an ongoing process. This Finance Bill also has some very important Ease of Doing Business related steps, and above all, we honour the Indian taxpayer. So, major steps have been taken towards the Indian taxpayer, both in the sense of personal income tax and also for those businesses which depend on import of raw material, and we also have encouraging policies which can help exports. So, we have ensured that we honour the taxpayer and take such policy measures which will help so that India can speed up its progress towards 2047 for a Viksit Bharat.

Sir, the income tax is one of the major things about which many of the Members have come personally to me to thank. I actually thank the hon. Prime Minister, who set me on this task much before the Budget preparations commenced and asked me to look at the possibilities of helping the middle class and also helping the taxpayers. I must thank the entire team in the Ministry of Finance where all of us sat through to see what are the kinds of things we can do. And, once we came up with the tax proposals and presented it before the Prime Minister, he readily agreed