

LOK SABHA

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES (Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Friday, March 13, 2020 / Phalguna 23, 1941 (Saka)

*MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (1) **SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI** laid a statement regarding need to include certain castes of Bihar in the list of Scheduled Tribes.
- (2) **SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO** laid a statement regarding allocation of more IPS officers to Odisha.
- (3) **SHRI CHUNNI LAL SAHU** laid a statement regarding need to provide the benefits of government welfare schemes to widows, deserted, orphaned and destitute women in the country.
- (4) **SHRI RAMDAS TADAS** laid a statement regarding need to undertake census of OBC castes in Census 2021.
- (5) **SHRI JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA** laid a statement regarding need to develop Jammu as a Smart City.

* Laid on the Table as directed by the Chair.

- (6) **DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY** laid a statement regarding laying of Deoghar-Pirpainti railway line.
- (7) **SHRI CHATTAR SINGH DARBAR** laid a statement regarding need to set up Skill Development Centres at Block and Panchayat levels in Dhar Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh.
- (8) **SHRI TIRATH SINGH RAWAT** laid a statement regarding transfer of LPG gas connections in Uttarakhand.
- (9) **SHRI KHAGEN MURMU** laid a statement regarding need to check flood and land erosion caused by Ganga and Phulhar rivers in Maldaha Uttar Parliamentary Constituency, West Bengal.
- (10) **SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH** laid a statement regarding alleged irregularities in payment of compensation to farmers under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in Bhiwani-Mahendragarh Parliamentary Constituency, Haryana.
- (11) **SHRI PARBHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA** laid a statement regarding need to establish a Medical College in rural areas of Bardoli Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat.
- (12) **SHRI RAKESH SINGH** laid a statement regarding expeditious implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in Jabalpur Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh.

- (13) **SHRI VIVEK NARAYAN SHEJWALKAR** laid a statement regarding expeditious disposal of petitions on Citizenship Amendment Act by Supreme Court.
- (14) **SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL** laid a statement regarding need to set up Oxygen Parks in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh under AMRUT Scheme.
- (15) **SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH** laid a statement regarding need to accelerate the pace of construction of Bihta-Aurangabad railway line in Bihar.
- (16) **SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY** laid a statement regarding need to provide stoppage of Gorakhpur-Gomatinagar Express (train no. 15009/10) at Brijmanganj railway station in Maharajganj district, Uttar Pradesh.
- (17) **SHRI HIBI EDEN** laid a statement regarding inclusion of houses in Coastal Zone Regulation notification in Kerala.
- (18) **SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN** laid a statement regarding proposed changes in the labour law and labour code.
- (19) **SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON** laid a statement regarding the plight of farmers of Tamil Nadu.
- (20) **SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA VISWANATH** laid a statement regarding problems being faced by orphaned in the country.

- (21) **SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU** laid a statement regarding setting up of villages secretariats in Andhra Pradesh.

THE UNION BUDGET-2020-2021

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS-2020-2021

Ministry of Railways-Contd.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: In spite of your highfalutin promises, the Railways has failed to earn adequate revenue. In the freight sector also, it has been registering a slowdown. You do not have internal surplus. Over the years, you have been resorting to borrowings from the market. Without the requisite funds, how would you be able to run Railways? There has been a drastic reduction in net revenue since 2015-16. Between 2015-16 and 2019-20, there was a decline of 80 per cent in the net revenue. You have raised the fare also. India performs poorly in global rankings on Railways. It was ranked 28th in 2019 on quality of Railway infrastructure. What is the fate of bullet train? The deadline that was fixed was 2022. Till now only about 39 per cent of the total required land has been acquired. You have failed to implement your earlier Budget announcements. In 2017-18 Budget speech, you had promised that a new Metro Rail Act will be enacted by rationalizing the existing laws. It has not been delivered. It was also promised that the average speed of the trains will be

increased and that trains will become more punctual. The Railways have performed poorly with falling punctuality rate, falling revenues and high operating ratio. Diamond quadrilateral project of high-speed train network was promised. But, so far, only Mumbai-Ahmedabad Train has been announced. I am drawing your attention to these issues for the betterment of the Railways. The entire House is against the privatization of Railways. The complete fabric of railway working has been destroyed in the name of amalgamation of all technical and non-technical services. Officers and railwaymen have got demotivated which will largely affect their performance. There are 15 lakh employees in the railway but no mention has been made here about their facilities. Every month, more than 8 lakh people do not get the railway tickets. It means that there is a huge gap in demand and supply. Please inform the House about your roadmap to address this problem. In the last few years, appropriation to the Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF) has decreased significantly from Rs. 7,775 crore in 2014-15 to only Rs. 300 crore in 2018-19. Under-provisioning for the DRF has been observed as one of the reasons behind the decline in track renewals, and procurement of wagons and coaches. As per the revised estimates of 2019-2020, Railways is estimated to allocate Rs. 2,500 crore towards the Rashtriya Rail Suraksha Kosh which is 50 per cent less than the proposed allocation for that year. I had brought to your notice a few points related to my constituency earlier also but you have not done anything. In Cossimbazar Station, during doubling, a blunder of monumental proportions has been done. A

goods loading line has been built between the station building and the platform making the passengers PFs virtually inaccessible to the elderly or divyangjan. There is an urgent requirement of lifts/escalators on both the PFs to facilitate movement of the elderly, sick and divyangjan.

SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK: Historical changes have been made by the Government in the field of railways which include Superfast trains like Vande Bharat and Tejas Express. Coal and Energy are produced in maximum quantity in Singrauli which is why people from various parts are living there. Lalitpur-Singrauli Rail project has remained pending for last many years due to which District Headquarter Sidhi in my Parliamentary Constituency has remained deprived of rail facility till date. I would request that adequate funds should be made available in this Financial Budget for Lalitpur-Singrauli rail project and for the doubling of Singrauli-Kati rail route. There are certain demands of my region which include: making the Singrauli-Bhopal Express (22165/66) regular, Singrauli-Nizamuddin Express (22167/68) regular, start new trains from Singrauli to Jabalpur and from Singrauli to Indore, introduce a weekly train from Singrauli to Bombay and a new train from Singrauli to Nagpur, carry out modernisation of Singrauli railway station, construction of an Overbridge on NH-39 at Bargawan railway crossing, start a new Intercity train from Singrauli to Varanasi, provide stoppage of Singrauli-Nizamuddin Express (22167/68) at Sarai railway station and

start operations of already sanctioned Intercity train for Singrauli-Jabalpur at the earliest.

SHRI KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV: My Parliamentary Constituency is extremely backward from the railway point of view. There is no daily superfast train to commute to Delhi from my home district Ashok Nagar. I would request that survey of Sawai Madhopur-Shivpuri-Jhansi railway line must be carried out once again and this work should be started at the earliest. Under bridges or over bridges must be constructed at all the railway crossings in my Parliamentary Constituency, primary survey work of Chanderi-Piprai-Lalitpur railway line has already been conducted in the past but so far no work has been started over here. I would request that budget amount must be allocated at the earliest for laying of 80 kilometers railway line connecting Piprai and Lalitpur via Chanderi. There has been a long standing demand to provide rail facility by laying a 120 kilometers long rail line from Guna to Aaron sironj, Ganjbasoda (Vidisha) and survey of this line has been done 3 to 4 times by the Ministry of Railway. Work on this railway line must be sanctioned and started at the earliest. There is no superfast train for coming directly to Delhi from Ashok Nagar district headquarter. I would request that a new Superfast train should be started for Delhi via Ashok Nagar and MEMU train should be started for Guna-Bina, Guna-Bhopal, Bina-Ashoknagar-Guna-Gwalior and Indore-Bina-Bhopal.

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA: Dahej in my Parliamentary Constituency, Bharuch, has the biggest industrial corridor of the country but there is no train stoppage at this place. Therefore, train nos. 19053/19054-Surat Muzaffarpur Express, 12979-Bandra-Jaipur Superfast Express, 12660-22659-Dehradun Cochuvveli Express and 19332/19331-Indore Kochiveli Express must be provided stoppage at Bharuch railway station. Beautification of Bharuch station must be carried out. There is a need to carry out different works like expansion of Bharuch railway station alongwith making it more convenient, expansion of station towards the entry gate on western side of the station, check unauthorised vehicle parking on the entry gate and to perk up the passenger security system particularly on the eastern side of the station. Train number 12989-Ajmer Superfast Express Train should be given a stoppage at Palej railway station. Construction of Railway Over Bridge at railway crossing number 197 at Palej railway station must be completed at the earliest. Speed of train number 59168 from Rajpeepla to Ankeleshwar must be increased.

SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI: Despite having the approval of the ministry for construction of ROB at Hazaribagh Road Gate No. 20-B-3T and Gate No. 18 of Chichaki, the people are disappointed as the construction work has not been starting there. There is also a need to construct a ROB in Pachrukhi before Rajdhanwar railway station and also a RUB at Moriyama village of Jhumri Talaiya. In public interest, railway halts should be constructed at Sijua, Remba and

Jharkhand Dham located on Koderma to Giridih railway section. At the same time, a survey of other places located in Koderma parliamentary constituency should be carried out for providing Halt station where the distance between the two stations is not convenient for the railway passengers. The positive steps should be taken to meet the long standing demand for stoppage of Sealdah Rajdhani Express at Koderma station, Mumbai Mail Intercity at Chaudhary Band station and Jammu Tawi Sealdah Express at SharmaTand station and of Purushottam Express at Parsabad station. I have already made requests for these above demands in past. The New Delhi Ranchi Rajdhani Express should be operated daily and extend it up to Koderma. At least 2 pairs of Mail Express train should be run on new railway line between Giridih to Ranchi on daily basis. I also demand to run a new train from Rampurhat (West Bengal) via Ranchi. If the train is introduced by connecting all major religious places, the travelling by train will become very easy for the tourists. At the same time, this proposed train may be named as Maa Tara Express. Doubling of Koderma to Madhupur rail section and the survey for construction of new railway line from Hazaribagh Road to Hazaribagh town should be done in this financial year. A well equipped AC VIP waiting hall should be constructed at Koderma station as well as the waiting halls with all facilities for all other categories of passengers should also be constructed.

SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA: Indian Railway is the third largest rail network in the world that helps millions of people every day to reach their destination. Even

today, railways are the easiest and cheapest means of travelling and transportation. The government is laying utmost emphasis on improving railway infrastructure. An investment of Rs. 20 lakh crore is being made for conversion and modernisation of 10000 kms of trunk road into high speed corridor. The electrification of all broad gauge railway lines has been targeted by 2022. Solar power plants are to be installed at all railway stations by the year 2020-21. Indian Railway has also set a record by running the world's first solar powered train. Unmanned railway crossings have been completely abolished. The coach factory at Rae Bareli is the only factory in the country where the entire production is going through robots. In my own parliamentary constituency, the sanction for doubling of underpass located at Sangner to Malpura Road on Sawai Madhopur railway line should be issued. Either an underpass or an over bridge must be constructed at Kalyanpur Gate. The Vande Bharat Express train from Jaipur to Delhi and the Tejas train between Jaipur to Gandhidham via Samdari and Bhildi should be started.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: With a new vision and resolve to completely abandon the old traditions that continue to incapacitate the railways, the Honorable Minister of Railways is successfully transforming railway as country's growth engine. The Honourable Railway Minister is doing holistic rejuvenation of the Railways. In my parliamentary constituency, the provisions for many facilities along the upgradation of the stations like Meerut City, Meerut Cantt, Hapur,

Kharkhoda, Pratapgarh and PawliKhas has been made. The safe movement of villagers has been ensured with the construction of 19 underpasses. I, on my own behalf and on behalf of the people of the region, thanks the Railway Minister for all these works. Panipat in Haryana and Meerut in western Uttar Pradesh are two very important trading and economic centers. I request that a direct rail link between Meerut and Panipat may kindly be provided. Please start the construction of new railway line between Meerut and Hastinapur for speedy development of Meerut region. Meerut and Hapur are two very important cities in NCR. A new Shuttle/passenger train between New Delhi-Hapur should be started. It is very important to construct a RoB at Meerut Cantt station for passing of two wheelers of the residents of kankerkheda. Kharkhoda is an important station between Meerut and Hapur. I request you to provide stoppages of Nauchandi Express and Sangam Express at Kharkhoda station. The Stoppage of train no. 15035/36 and 12391/12392 may be given at Kharkhoda station.

SHRI BHAGIRATH CHOUDHARY: I support the demands for grants on Railways, besides this, I also thank hon'ble Prime Minister and Railway Minister, as it is his successful implementation which has resulted in amazing progress of Indian Railways during the last six years. I would like to attract the attention of the Minister of Railways to the following problem of my Parliamentary Constituency:- Amritsar-Bikaner Garibrath via Sriganganagar should be introduced. A washing line should be constructed at Hanumangarh Juntion. A new train (Intercity

Express) should be from Sriganaganar to Jaipur. Brahmaputra Mail Express should be extended to Sriganaganar. Jaipur-Prayagraj-Jaipur Express should be extended to Hanumangarh via Churu. Stoppage of all the passenger trains should be ensured at Sardargarh, Dalpatsinghpur (Sansad Aadarsh Gram) and Amarpura Rathan Railway stations. Keshavnagar railway station should be sanctioned as a halt. Pilibanga railway station should be renovated and upgraded.

SHRI SURESH KASHYAP: The whole of the Himachal Pradesh should be linked with rail network. If all the places are linked with rail connectivity, more and more tourists will arrive. A train should be introduced from Kalka and Haridwar. Kalka-Shimla, which is a heritage train, should be provided more facilities. A mono railway should be introduced in Shimla city. Jabali station should be restarted.

SHRIMATI SUMALATHA AMBAREESH: The hon'ble Finance Minister in her budget for 2020-21 provided the railways a budgetary allocation of Rs. 70,000 crore. The budget also proposed setting up of a large solar power capacity alongside the rail tracks on land owned by the railways. The government has proposed to setting up of a "Krishi Rail" through PPP arrangements. The Union Government has announced the suburban rail project for Bengaluru. I would like to request the hon'ble Railway Minister to consider the following demands of my Parliamentary Constituency Mandya in Karnataka State:-

Allocation of fund to be utilised for the construction of RUB at number LC 73 near Mandya Station yard on Mysore-Bangalore Railway line. There is a need to installing Lift/Escalator at Mandaya and also at Pandavapura halt station. Railway under pass is constructed unscientifically at Doranahalli near Krishnarajasagar Railway station on Arasikere-Hassan-Mysore Railway line. Hence, I would like to request you to look into the difficulties arising out of this Railway underpass and take immediate necessary measures.

SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT: The government has done remarkable work over the last few years to make railways a better public utility with comprehensive reforms and facilitation, and quality enhancement and cleanliness in railways. The people of my parliamentary constituency and adjoining areas are demanding a new railway line from Lohardaga to Korba via Gumla since a long time. This long cherished demand should be fulfilled. Besides, Doubling of Ranchi-Lohardaga railway line via Turi railway line should be made. New Delhi-Ranchi Rajdhani Express should be extended upto Lohardaga via Turi and a new train service from Ranchi to Rourkela via Lohardaga should be started. Since a long time, the people are asking a stoppage of Alleppey Express at Pokala station. With this stoppage, Gumla district will get the railway connectivity and the people of this area with this line will get the access to the southern state of the country.

SHRI VINOD LAKHAMSHI CHAVDA: I urge upon the Government to provide a new train in my Parliamentary Constituency Kutch on Bhuj-Delhi,

Mumbai-Bhuj routes and daily or weekly trains to the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, South India and Haridwar and also run a new train from Saurashtra to Mokshi and Kutch in Gujarat.

SHRI ARJUNLAL MEENA: I request the Government to fulfill my demand to complete the work of gauge-conversion on Udaipur- Ahmedabad (Gujarat) route via Himmatnagar in my Parliamentary Constituency at the earliest and provide adequate budget for the said project. There is a need to announce a new rail line from Dungarpur to Banswara, Ratlam (Madhya Pradesh) and make provision of budget for it. Udaipur-Pali, Sarhi should be linked with the railway network. A train like Tejas should also run between Delhi and Udaipur City and a special recruitment drive should be launched by the railways to fill up the back log vacancies of SC, ST and OBC categories.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I support the Demand for Grants 2020-21 for the Ministry for Railways. A new rail line from Bahraich to Khalilabad via Shravasti, Balrampur and Domariaganj is going to facilitate millions of people living in this region. Railway safety has been given foremost priority. All Unmanned Level Crossings on Broad Gauge network have been eliminated and Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh of Rs. 1 lakh cr has been created. Aspirations of the people of North East were fulfilled with completion of 4.94 Kms long Bogibeel Bridge which has reduced travel time from 24 hrs to 5 hrs. Vande Bharat Express- India's first high-tech, energy-efficient, self-propelled train has been introduced. Railway

electrification has increased six times and 100% electrification of Broad Gauge Routes of Indian Railways is targeted by 2021-22. Freight earnings have touched their highest level and is expected to be about Rs. 1.43 lakh cr in Budget Year 2019-20. Dedicated Freight Corridors from Bhadan to Khurja and Western Rewari to Madar have been completed. Railways has improved passenger services by installing modern facilities like escalators, lifts, free wi-fi etc. Indian Railways is also playing an important part in promoting tourism and providing a wonderful experience to tourists. Ramayan Express, Panj Takht Express and Buddhist Circuits trains have been introduced. India's first National Rail and Transportation Institute has been launched with two undergraduate programmes – B.Sc. in Transportation Technology and BBA in Transportation Management. Rs. 421 crore has been sanctioned for the next five 5 years.

SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON : Railways recruitment process needs immediate correction mechanism in the interest of common man everywhere. Local persons should be given preference as local people converse in local language only. The callous attitude of Railway officials towards minor demands for stopping of trains at certain places and extension of stoppage time by a few more minutes etc. is not correct. The project of broad gauge railroad connecting Chinna Salem and Kallakurichi should be expedited. This is an industrial belt with large number of modern rice mills, Sago factories, Textile mills and Sugar mills. I request that a railway under bridge should be built to facilitate the under privileged

local people of M. Perumalpalayam Village in Salem district. There are several unmanned rail crossings on Virudhachalam-Salem railroad. Manning of these crossings should be done at war footing.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: New rail lines should be sanctioned from Koch to Med Jalaun, Koch to Bhind and Orai to Mahoba in Jhansi Division of Central Railway in my Parliamentary Constituency. Stoppage of Pushpak Express at Pukhrayan station and Etah Junction and Mahakal Express at Orai station should be provided. New Delhi-Kanpur Shramshakti Express should be extended upto Jhansi, it will facilitate direct connectivity of 25 stations situated on Kanpur-Jhansi route to Delhi.

DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE : Pune and Nashik cities have undergone rapid economic growth in recent years. Mumbai, Pune and Nashik are together referred as golden triangle of Maharashtra. At present there is no direct link between these important cities of Maharashtra state. Pune-Nashik Rail line project should be undertaken. This Rail line will pass through three main districts of Maharashtra, i.e. Pune, Ahmednagar and Nashik. It will provide seamless connectivity to industrial zones of Pune and Nashik. Alongwith this, development of container depots along the rail corridor, development rights for proposed stations, development of Private Freight Terminal, Dry Port, Multimodel and Commercial hub, Warehouses and Siding should also be undertaken. This will open a new revenue stream for industries by fast track movement of cargo by railways and

facilitate economical transportation of the industrial goods from Pune region to different part of the country as well as to ports. This project has been pending for the last 21 years. So, it should be taken up on priority basis.

SHRI C.P. JOSHI: Rajasthan has witnessed unprecedented progress in railway sector. If doubling and electrification of Ajmer to Chittorgarh, Chittorgarh to Nimach, Nimach to Ratlam and Chittorgarh to Kota lines are done simultaneously then Superfast trains could start from or pass through my Parliamentary Constituency. There is a need to run tri-weekly Udaipur-Haridwar train on daily basis. There is a need to construct rail line from Mandsaur to Pratapgarh and Pratapgarh to Banswada on basis of survey conducted. Budget should be allocated for conversion of Mavli-Marwar rail line into broad gauge. A new rail line from Badisadri to Neemach should be constructed on priority basis. Alongwith it, there is a need to run a train from Mewarh to Amritsar and Katra also.

SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI: In my Lok Sabha Constituency Sikar, Train nos. 14021/14022 running between Sikar and Delhi via Loharu railway route should be made a daily train. Delhi Sarai Rohilla Ringas train should be extended upto Jaipur. Aravali Express running between Delhi and Ahmedabad should be reintroduced. New daily trains should be introduced for Haridwar, Jammu Tawi, Ahmedabad, Surat and Mumbai from Rewari-Phulera sub division. Underpass should be constructed on Ringas – Rewari rail route. Reservation counter should be opened at Shrimadhapur. Tin shed should be constructed at

Platform No. 2 of Nim Ka Thana. The arrangement in passenger rest rooms should be improved. Retiring rooms should be constructed at Sikar and Ringas stations. Foot overbridge should be constructed near Bagadiya Bal Niketan School located in Laxmangarh. Shekhawati in Rajasthan besides being a military area, devotees of this region visit Kamakhya Temple. Hence Train Nos. 15631/15632, which runs from Guwahati to Jaipur twice a week, should be run five days a week by extending it upto Bikaner via Ringas and Sikar. It is requested that a new railway line should be laid by conducting a survey to connect religious places like Khatu Shyamji and Salasar Balaji directly with train. Necessary facilities should be made available for differently abled persons.

DR. RAMAPATI RAM TRIPATHI : Overbridges should be constructed on the routes heading towards Bihar via Bhikampur. Gorakhpur -Lucknow Intercity Express should be run from Bhatni Junction. The station has two water tanks which are very old and are in dilapidated condition. The water tanks and all the pipelines connected to it need to be replaced afresh. Station Master's office, booking office, men and women waiting rooms need to be airconditioned . The escalators, FOB and lifts , whose work has been approved should be started at the earliest. All railway quarters constructed near the railway stations should be constructed afresh. Granite flooring need to be done at railway platform and station premises. Arrangement of toilets should be made for differently abled patients on platform nos. 2 and 3. There is a need of one generator of at least

120 KVA in the Railway Enquiry office. Officers waiting room in Deoria Sadar has become very old and is in dilapidated condition. It should be replaced by a new rest room. At present there are only two guards for waiting rooms who work in 12 -12 hour shifts. Hence appointment of more guards should be ensured. Stoppage of Bhatni Junction (BTT), Amrapali Express 15707/15708, Patliputra Lucknow Express 12529/12530, Jalpaiguri New Delhi Express 12523/12524, Purvanchal Express 15047/15048 and Dibrugarh Chandigarh Express 15903/15904 should be provided at Bhatni Junction. Chapra-Lucknow Samar station train should be regularised. Arrangement of express train should be made from Thawe Junction to Gorakhpur in morning and evening. The rest room is occupied by the police, it should be opened for the common people. Toilets should be constructed for the passengers. There is a need for railway underpass in Gauri Bazar. There is an urgent need to provide stoppage of Gorakhpur Intercity Express 15103 and Bagh Express 13019 Up and Down in Gauri Bazar railway station.

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE: The Committee on Restructuring Railways had noted that the expenditure undertaken by the ministry to fund the expenditure on staff has been disproportionately high. I would like to suggest the Government to separate pension spending from the rest of the revenue expenditure. The needs of my Constituency Mumbai South Central are such as developing a closed circuit corridor of the Mumbai suburban railway, setting up of the CBPC

signaling services should be completed with immediate effect, development of an underpass from Matunga East to Matunga West, development of Dadar railway station and Kurla railway station as smart stations. Increasing the number of AC locals alongwith decrease in the cost of tickets. Consider operating one to three A.C. coaches in a semi-air-conditioned locomotive rather than operating an entire AC local. The air-conditioned local should have a separate compartment or space for the disabled persons. Passengers have expressed their displeasure over the cancellation of the general locals rounds and starting AC local round instead. A/C locals can be run as an additional or new round. I urge upon the Government to repair and construct more and more foot over bridges at the areas adjacent to Railway Stations in Mumbai and Suburban.

SHRI B. MANICKAM TAGORE: I request the Ministry of Railways to regularise the Silambu Express from Chennai to Aruppukottai, Virudhunagar, Sivakasi and run it on daily basis.

DR. SUBHAS SARKAR: I request the Ministry of Railways to fulfill certain demands relating to my Constituency such as mobilization of freight traffic and there should not be cancellation of passenger train in Adra Division, link train to avail Agnibina Express from Adra to Asansole, increase Reservation Quota for Bankura Station (District Sadar) in (i) Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express and (ii) Howrah Lokmanya Tilak Samarsata Express; and provide connectivity with Eastern Railway for trains from Bankura to Masagram.

SHRI HAJI FAZLUR REHMAN: I urge upon the Government to run two trains from Saharanpur to Delhi in the morning and evening. A new train from Deoband station to the north-eastern states of Bihar and Bengal. There is a need to lay a new railway line between Saharanpur to Dehradun via Gagalhedi, Chutmulpur, Biharigarh, Sunderpur and run a new train on the route and also start a daily train from Saharanpur to Lucknow and Allahabad.

SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK: I demand that construction of new rail line from Jind to Hansi should be started at the earliest and ATMs should be installed at railway station and Jind junction in my Parliamentary Constituency, Sonipat. A park should be developed at vacant land of Railways in cooperation with Railways and Municipal Council. Stoppage of train no. 19717 (Up) 19718 (Down) at Jalna Railway Station and halt at Ludana village should be provided. Escalators should be installed at railway stations. Stoppage of Hisar-Haridwar train should be provided at Gohana railway station. An underpass at railway level crossing no. C-34 and level crossing or underpass should be constructed at village Hullaheri rail line. Stoppage of Garib Rath train at Gohana and Kurukshetra-Mathura and Mathura-Kurukshetra train at Ganaur should be provided. Stoppage of train no. 19717 (Up) 19718 (Down) should be provided at Jalna railway station and shed should also be constructed there. A new railway station in village Chabri, a bridge on Jalna –Dohad rail line should be constructed. A park should be developed near rail line in Rohtak road. Jind Railway station should be upgraded.

Previous time schedule of Chhindwada train from Tohana should be restored. Stoppages of Sriganaganar-Delhi Intercity Express, Dhauladhar Express and Nanded Express should be provided at Tohana. A new train should be introduced from Delhi to Amritsar via Rohtak, Jind, Tohand, Jakhal. Stoppages of Hisar-Haridwar train at Gohana and Geeta Jayanti Express at Ganaur railway station should be provided.

SHRI C.N. ANNADURAI : Modernization of the Tiruvannamalai Railway station should be undertaken. A direct train between capital city of Chennai and Tiruvannamalai should be introduced. Adequate funds may be allotted for new Railway-Line from Tindivaram to Tiruvannamalai. Stoppage of Howrah-Puducherry Express Train should be provided at Tiruvannamalai. A daily Intercity Express from Chennai to Tiruvannamalai should be introduced immediately.

SHRI RAMPRIT MANDAL: Khagauli and Rajnagar railway stations are located in my parliamentary constituency. The stoppage of Janki Express, Intercity Express and Gangasagar Express should be given at both the stations. Jhanjharpur-Laukha gauge conversion work is very slow, there is a need to accelerate it.

DR. ALOK KUMAR SUMAN: Indian Railway is the life line of the country as it is the most easily available means of transport for the people everywhere. I belong to Gopalganj Parliamentary Constituency. I would like to inform about certain problems and certain aspiration of the people. Gorakhdham Express running

between New Delhi to Gorakhpur should be run up to Chapra via Thawe Gopalganj. A intercity Express between Gopalganj Thawe to Patna should be operated. The number of passenger trains to Siwan via Gopalganj Thawe should be increased.

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE: This Budget is something special in which is focused on agriculture and farmers, poors and medium classes in place of populist schemes announcements. My parliamentary constituency Gadchiroli-Chimur falls under a very backward and tribal dominated inaccessible area. Railway lines associated works should be completed earliest for Wadsa - Gadchiroli and Nagpur-Nagbhir routes. In order to quickly complete the work of construction of both the railway lines, the allocation of funds should be made, so that this area could developed and get rid of problem of Naxalism and youths there can join the mainstream of the country. The provision of funds should be made in the Budget to construct an over-bridge on priority basis on Wadsa - Aamgaon railway lines. Initiatives should be taken for the laying of one and a half kilometers railway lines in Dhanoli of Deori - Aamgaon Legislative Assembly in Gondia district of Gadchiroli Parliamentary constituency, Gadchiroli - Wadsa railway line should by converted into broad gauge.

SHRI LORHO S. PFOZE: It is my request to seriously look into the matter and revive the Diphu - Karaong railway project for the up-keep of Shri Atalji's commitment and the sense of deprivation and alienation by the Hilly Tribal

peoples be done away with. The new Project Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal when completed, can further be connected to Imphal - Karong, Karong-Zubza and Zubza-Dimapur railheads in Nagaland and further Karong - Peren - Diphu could be connected hence fulfilling the dreams of the people of Manipur, Nagaland and Assam.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL) *replying said:* A total of 99 Members

have participated in this discussion. I am proud of the entire strength of more than 13 lakh railway employees who are committed to the service of the Railways round the clock. Railways connects the country from one point to another. This is a heritage of 165 years. Hon. Prime Minister keeps guiding us with respect to the Railways. The issue of separate Rail Budget was raised in the discussion. Numerous political announcements used to be made in the Rail Budget but most of them were not implemented. There are several projects which have not been completed even though they were commissioned as late as in 1974. Investment in the Railways has increased by 2.5 times during the last five years. In 2013-14, the Railways got only Rs. 54,000 crore. In the current Budget, we have got an approval to spend Rs. 1,61,000 crore. In earlier times, hundreds of projects remained under implementation. Small funds like 10, 20 or 50 crore rupees were given to all those projects. We have identified 58 super critical and 68 critical projects to invest maximum funds in those which are encumbrance free so that we

can accelerate the work and complete the project soon. Approximately, 600-650 kms of railway line was electrified during 2013-14. We set a target of 6000 kms and completed 5200 kms. Railways had very little pension fund in the year 2014. We do not want to increase the fare very much but to increase the railway revenue gradually. A question has been raised against the merger of Railway Budget into the Union Budget. The biggest benefit of this decision is that now bogus announcements are not made there. Hon. Members have raised some issues in respect of the projects of West Bengal and Kerala. I would like to inform the Members that the State Governments are supposed to make available the necessary land. If the hon. Members help us get the land, we will commence the projects at the earliest. Uttarakhand Government has made available the entire land required for the 125 kms railway line from Rishikesh to Karnaprayag. We are able to undertake this project on a fast pace. Similarly, a region as important as the North-East has been neglected for so many years. Now, except Sikkim, all the seven States of North-East region are connected with the railways. We are working very fast on certain national rail line projects for the North-Eastern region. The Chenab Bridge project in Kashmir was progressing very slowly due to tension in the State. Even in this project, the work has got pace during the last two years after June 2018. We have assessed the future demand with the help of NITI Aayog. An investment of approximately Rs. 50 lakh crore is required for the next 12 years. Some Members have questioned as to why the private sector is being engaged in

train operations. If the Government takes up such huge investment on its own, it would compromise the social welfare schemes. So, employing the potential of private sector is justified. Passenger safety is our utmost priority. Not a single casualty has been reported due to rail accident from 1st April, 2019 till date. During the previous regimes, 1866 coaches used to be manufactured in five years but during the last five years 9932 coaches have been manufactured. With the use of international level technique, indigenously developed Vande-Bharat Express has been started. Tender process of 44 Vande-Bharat Express trains has been initiated. Same is the case of cleanliness. This is the most important target of this Government. Mumbai railway tracks were full of garbage for many years. Now, you can see clean railway tracks in Mumbai. There is a 360 degree approach of this Government and cleanliness is one of its example. Toilets are being converted into bio-toilets. The Government have made available full fund for bio-toilets. Today, bio-toilets have been fitted in almost 99 per cent coaches. This Government is committed to the Jal Jivan Mission. Saving water is also the responsibility of Railway. The Government has taken initiatives for setting up automatic coach cleaning plants. Government has already ordered for 125 automatic coach cleaning machines. The data of electrification during the year 2013-14 was only 610 kilometers which has increased upto 5200 kilometers during the last year and it will reach upto 6000 kilometers in the current year. Now, Indian Railway will be the first railway in the world which will be cent per cent electrified. Hon. Prime

Minister has suggested to set up solar energy system on Railways' vacant land. Indian Railway will be the first in the world in which there will be zero pollution. Today, there is cent per cent LED lighting in Railways. Till the year 2014, there were only 143 escalators and 97 lifts on Railway platforms. During the last five years 519 new escalators and 391 lifts have been installed. The Government is going to install 600 esclators and 1100 lifts in the coming 4 years. Today, Wi-Fi facility is available at 5628 stations. We have also focused on punctuality. Punctuality of Tejas trains is more than 90 per cent. If at all it runs late passengers receive refunds against the delay caused. Booking of tickets has, for long, been a pressing problem. Given that, action has been taken against the railway touts. A number of illegal softwares like ANMS, MSC, I-Ball, Redbull etc., have been brought under the net and the agents are facing actions. I would like to suggest that nobody should fall prey to fake ticket and the temptation of guaranteed reservation. Rather, they should visit common service centres set up by the Government to buy tickets. In so far as, providing stoppages at the stations are concerned, a consultative committee embarked on the decision that stoppages should be decided in a technical, rational and profitable manner which would enhance the train facilities on one hand and would substantially help in maintaining the punctuality of trains on the other. Coming to the integration of the services in the railways, one would appreciate that so many departments taking care of respective affairs used to hinder the smooth extension of safety and convenience to the passengers.

Therefore, a bold decision has been taken for the merger of 8 services into one bearing the name - Indian Railway Management Service. This would serve to operate the railways in a better way. I would like to assure that no one's career is going to be jeopardized with this move. There has been significant focus on recruitment over the last three years. The statistics in place bear clear testimony to it. To sum up, sincere initiatives are afoot to modernize the railways and make rail journey easy, hassle free, convenient and comfortable.

All the cut motions moved were negatived.

All the Demands for Grants were voted in full.

THE UNION BUDGET 2020-21

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH *initiating said:* In the Budget, there is a reduction in allocation for SC/ST women and also in the allocation for implementation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. SC and ST women are the most vulnerable among the women in the country as they are subjected to violence of various nature. So, they should have been allotted a significant sum in this Budget. But the government has

allocated mere 0.8 per cent. While Rs. 30 crore has been allocated for boys' hostels, the girls' hostels are completely ignored. There is no allocation for SC/ST women for their hostel construction and hostel facilities. The allocation for the Post Matric Scholarships has been increased very nominally. Inadequate allocation for the farming sector is likely to impact SC and ST adversely. Allocation for MNGEGA has also been reduced vis-a-vis the previous year. By compartmentalizing the scope of the Ministries to allocate funds for SC/STs, the Government has indeed reduced the possibility of allocation. There is a mismatch in allocations concerning SCs and STs. In fact by making notional allocation of funds the Government is diluting actual intent. There is under utilization of the funds by the Ministries for the welfare of SCs/STs. As per NCRB records, crime against Dalit women is on the rise. Children too are more or less in the same boat. They need comprehensive support to demolish the wall of discrimination. Last but not the least, Reservation in the Private Sector is a long pending demand.

SHRI AKSHAIBAR LAL: It should be included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution that the benefit of reservation given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should continue forever. Gond and Kori castes have been kept under the Scheduled Castes in the entire Uttar Pradesh. Some Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not given caste certificates in some districts of Uttar Pradesh despite the Government of Uttar Pradesh, from time to time, issuing Government order to Commissioners and District Magistrates. Commissioner,

Azamgarh is not taking cognizance of letters given by Public Representatives. District Magistrate, Mau is not issuing the caste certificates to Gond people due to which they are deprived of getting the Constitutional facilities. I would like to urge you that Commissioner, Azamgarh Division, Azamgarh and District Magistrate, Mau should be immediately dismissed from their posts and all the decisions taken by them in Divisional Appellate Forum/ District Caste Scrutiny Committee should be cancelled. I demand from the Government that the Government of Uttar Pradesh should fully follow the Government orders issued by the Union Government and guidelines should be issued in this regard and action should be taken as per the Constitution against the staff and officers responsible for not issuing caste certificates to people and depriving them their Constitutional rights.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: When the Modi Government came to power, all the Ministers of the Central Government are successfully launching new schemes to uplift the life style of the people. The allocations made in the Central Budget 2020-21 reflects the hopes, aspirations and faith of the people. It covers three significant issues. It focuses mainly on hopes of India, economic development and caring society. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been allocated Rs. 10103.78 crore. For various welfare schemes for the OBC, provisions have been made in the Budget 2020-21. Rs. 1415 crore have been allocated for Post-Matric Scholarship Scheme, 250 crores for Pre-Matric Scholarship Scheme, 35 crore for National Oversees Scholarship, 120 crores for

National Fellowship, 50 crores for construction of hostels, 50 crores for assistance to NGO's and Rs. 25 crores for Post Matric Scholarship for OBC's. Increase in allocation has been made for the schemes for the welfare of Disabled persons, which clearly indicates that our Government is very sensitive towards persons with disabilities. 4 per cent reservation has been made for Divyang people in Government jobs. In higher educational institutions, 5% per cent reservation has been given for students. As per Mandal Commission, the population of OBC is 52 per cent. In 2020, census process has started but there is no provision for census of OBC's. I would like to draw the attention of the Government that in the Central Budget. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been allocated 72.5 per cent for the Scheduled Castes. Rest of 27.5% allocation is provided for Senior citizens, disabled persons, NGO's and OBC's. It indicates that only 10% amount is allocated for OBC's. The OBC population is about 52 per cent. I would urge that a provision for sub- plan separately should be made for OBC category, so that they do not have to face problems. Our Government has done a lot for social justice. Our Government has taken an historical step by giving constitutional status by constituting a Backward Class Commission. Our Hon. Prime Minister has taken step for 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' and the Dalits and Backward Classes need it the most. Efforts are being made through schemes for their upliftment.

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE: The Budget 2020-21 has given a significant push to social sector. Alcohol consumption is disproportionately higher among socially marginalised groups, notably SC/ST. Hence I request to the Government to formulate a policy to reduce the tendency of alcohol usage among the marginalised groups. These need to provide state wise specific package for rehabilitation of senior citizens/widows/beggars; allocate adequate funds for providing free coaching for SC/ST and OBC students and to provide infrastructure facilities for the convenience of disabled persons in public places.

SHRI D.K. SURESH: The allocation made for Department for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities is inadequate and should be increased significantly. Almost all schemes regarding persons with disabilities such as Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchasing/fitting of aids/appliances (ADIP), Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) are showing a declining trend. The Government should oversee the implementation of international laws such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and other international commitments across the country. The Government should come up with an action plan with financial commitments involving the sectoral Ministries and Departments as recommended by the CRPD committee in order to "Make the Right Real" for persons with disabilities. Much higher allocations for the welfare and empowerment of persons with disability are needed. The

Government should allocate more funds for the empowerment of persons with disabilities.

SHRI P.R. NATARAJAN: India has been ranked at the 103rd position among 119 countries on the Global Hunger Index. India is ranked below many neighboring countries including China, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. To improve the conditions of anganwadi workers and helpers, more funds should be allocated. We should take measures to ensure women's safety in our country. The Government must make stringent laws that ensure the punishment of criminals immediately. Fast track courts must be set up so that the victim gets justice instantly.

SHRIMATI SUMATHY T. THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN: The social justice is a political and philosophical concept which holds that all people should have equal access to wealth, health, well- being, justice, and opportunity. The synonyms for social justice are fairness, equity and integrity. I, urge the Government to bring a reservation Act for OBCs, SCs and STs and to place it in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. I have got the data about the lack of funds allotted to the post- matric scholarship as well as pre- matric scholarship to all the students. It has to be increased. The inadequate budget allocation under these schemes is because of the gap between the funds decided by the Ministry of Social Justice and those approved by the Ministry of Finance. It should be bridged. Justice delayed is justice denied. The implementation of reservation for SCs, STs

and OBCs in higher educational institutions, funded by the Centre, was delayed by 15 years after the announcement while the same for EWS was done within a month of its announcement. Even after the Government having declared the year 2001 as the year of Women Empowerment, we are still fighting for 33 per cent reservation for women. Dr. Kalaingar implemented 50 per cent reservation for women in urban and local bodies. So, Tamil Nadu is the first State to do so in the whole country. I wish to urge the Ministry, through you, to allot more funds for the persons with disabilities. The Government should increase the allocation. Under the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana, I have adopted a village by name Sitalapakkam. I urge the Central Ministry to put pressure on the State Government because the Government of Tamil Nadu has sent back the Nirbhaya Fund without properly utilizing the whole amount.

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL: Social justice is a concept of a society in which every human being is treated justly, without discrimination based on financial status, race, gender, ethnicity and caste in the country. Social justice can be achieved through women's participation and girl education. Reporting of crimes against Dalits and Adivasis has risen over the decades, but there has not been an equivalent rise in the rate of disposal of cases. The allocation for the Self Employment Scheme for rehabilitation of manual scavengers is equal to that of the last year. Tribal communities remain vulnerable to displacement because of mining, dams and other large infrastructure projects. Adequate allocation should be

made for expansion of quality habitation and rehabilitation services in rural areas for persons with disabilities. The Demands for Grants for the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities should be increased. The Centre's contribution to pensions of disabled persons must be increased. The National University for Rehabilitation Sciences and Disabilities Studies and the National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation should be set up and funds should be provided to them. More funds are to be allocated for proper implementation of the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017. It is also necessary to ensure that the Schemes and Programmes are being implemented properly. The Government must also fill up backlog vacancies of SCs, STs and OBCs in six departments.

SHRI ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA: We strongly appreciate that the Budget, 2020-21 has given a decisive push to social sector with enhanced allocations for welfare schemes. The Union Budget was woven around three prominent themes- Aspirational India, Economic Development for All and Building a Caring Society. The Post- Matric allocation under Scholarship Scheme should be enhanced. Manual Scavenging is still existing in this country and news of manual scavenging deaths are reported extremely frequently. This is a social evil that has to be eliminated at the earliest and the Ministry should put in a considerable effort to eradicate this. The allocation made for SC Boys and Girls Hostels has been extremely low for the past few years and even during this year. I urge that the

Ministry may allocate a substantial sum to truly help the beneficiaries belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: The budgetary allocation to the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment in 2020-21 is just a mere 0.3% increment over spending by this department in 2018-19. Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, Central Sector Scheme that provides physical aides and Assisted living devices for senior citizens suffering from Age Related Disabilities/ infirmities belonging to BPL category. Under this scheme, just Rs. 1 crore is allocated. Given the immense benefits of this scheme, I request the Centre to increase the Budget allocation for this scheme to at least Rs. 150 crores. In the 2020-21 Budget, no funds are allocated to schemes and programmes responsible for preventing alcoholism, substance and drug abuse. Budgetary allocation for post-matric scholarship for SC students has been reduced by almost 50%. The total amount projected to be spent in 2020-21 under National Programme for Welfare of Persons with disabilities, reduced to Rs. 655 crore in 2020-21. While the Budget for DNT slightly increased in 2018-19- to 10 crore from Rs. 6 crore, it has been stagnant since then. The post- matriculation scholarship demands exceed allocations. In Maharashtra, the State Government is implementing the post matric scheme to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students studying at post-matric or post- secondary stage. Under the scheme Central and State share is 75:25. The Government of India has only released Rs. 3623.75 lakh grant. However, the

remaining grant is still pending for sanction by the Government of India. There has been marginal increment of 122.77 crores from the Budget estimate of the Department for the empowerment of persons with disabilities for the financial year 2019-20. The Accessible India Campaign (AIC) which is one of the flagship programmes for accessibility does not find any mention in the Budget. While hopes were pinned on its better implementation, lack of a financial framework has made it defunct.

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI: During 2019-20, budget allocation of 8885 crore rupees has been provided to the Department and the Department has utilized only 5740.19 crore rupees till 31st January, 2020 which was 64.6 per cent of the allocated funds. Parliamentary Constituency level Committees should be set up and participation of the Member of Parliament of Parliamentary Constituency in these Committees should be ensured so that monitoring of achievement of the schemes being implemented can be done. The construction work of hostels under Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana should be expedited. Reformative steps should be taken for the welfare of drug addicts. A draft proposal of major schemes related to empowerment of Divyang persons should be prepared which can be used as guideline document. Improvement in quality of production of equipments for disabled persons should be made and their costs should also be reduced. Most of the schools are in remote and inaccessible areas of the country. It is urged that

each school of the area should do Jio tagging so that no child is deprived of education in these school due to disability.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Depravity of opportunity is the cause of poverty. Major efforts by Government and international organisations to reduce or eradicate poverty have thus far failed to produce the desired results. Hunger, discrimination, poor health, vulnerability, insecurity and a lack of personal and professional development opportunities are among the many other challenges faced by the poor. Government through its programme and schemes is striving to build an inclusive society wherein Members of the target groups are provided adequate support for their growth and development. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment implements various schemes and programmes for the welfare of disadvantaged sections. A guideline should be issued that for release of every installment of funds to States there will be a deadline for submitting UCs. A committee may be created for every Parliamentary Constituency which can monitor the progress of the schemes and programmes and the welfare of SCs, OBCs Senior citizens and other targeted groups. A proposal for transferring funds directly into the Bank accounts of SC students under Direct Benefit Transfer needs to be pursued vigorously. Hostels for Scheduled Castes students should be constructed at the earliest. There is a need for higher allocations for the welfare of Transgender community. There is a need to provide a separate scheme for OBCs so that they can improve their skill and can be gainfully employed. Efforts should

be made to provide Skill Training to PWDs and strengthen the employability of the beneficiaries after they complete the skill training. Data of beneficiaries should be maintained for future streamlining of the scheme. The scheme of DDRCS needs to be revisited and recast so that it can become workable. Department initiation of a colour coded daily performance report with indicated level of performance of lagging States/UTs and following it up with States/UTs/Districts on daily basis to monitor the progress made by them is necessary. Steps should be taken to include column regarding caste in the question when Census in numeration is done of every citizen. Reservation should be continued.

SHRI RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU: The Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana being implement for the well-being of the elderly people in our country is a good scheme. But unfortunately, the budget allocation for such a good scheme has been drastically reduced to Rs. 1 crore. Hence, I would like to urge our hon. Minister to increase this budget allocation to the required levels. There is a community by name Turpu Kapu, Gajula Kapu in our State, who predominantly reside in the northern part of coastal Andhra in the Vizag, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts. They are considered as OBCs only in the three Districts. But the passenger who go to other districts for their livelihood, are being considered as forward caste people. Some commission should be formed in this regard.

SHRI DULAL CHANDRA GOSWAMI: The way the Government has been working for the empowerment of the socially, educationally and economically

deprived sections of the society is appreciable. I would like to say one thing that the sum of Rs 500 being given as old age pension should be increased at least to Rs 1000. I would like to make a demand to the Government of India that a special shelter home should be made for the mentally disabled and at the same time arrangements should be made for their collective treatment. At last, I would like to make an important point that the census likely to be held in 2020-21 should be conducted on the caste basis which will enable us to collect accurate data in respect of all the castes of all the classes of the society. This will go a long way in formulating schemes for the development of the weaker sections of the society in future.

SHRIMATI SUMALATHA AMBAREESH: There is a need to ensure effective implementation of the Schemes for elderly persons. The fact of the matter is that for the reasons of dismantling of joint family system elderly persons are cornered and are left in the lurch. So there is a need to create a social milieu which is conducive and sensitive to the emotional needs of the elderly persons. Besides focused initiatives for the welfare of the disabled are essential. A host of schemes are already in place favouring them. Yet, the funds for the scholarships need to be augmented to promote education. Literacy level among backward classes particularly among the women is a point of serious concern. Educational and economic support for the backward classes has not been adequate and there is a disparity even among them at every level. It is self evident that education is one of

the key instruments of effective development of weaker sections. Hence, I would like to request the Government to enhance the allocation of the funds for construction of hostels for the boys and girls belonging to OBC.

SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA: I would like to thank the Government for 100 per cent utilisation of funds allocated under Rehabilitation of Manual Scavenger Scheme over the last few years. I would like to request the Government to release maximum funds to Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Foundation for the all-round development of the destitute and deprived sections of the society.

SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA: The amendment made for the rights to be conferred on the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes is a commendable step. The budgetary allocation of more than Rs.10,000 crore for this Ministry in the current fiscal will go a long way in fulfilling the cherished objectives. Not just that, Prime Minister Young Achiever Scholarship Award Scheme has been proposed to be in place to be rolled out with the other scholarship schemes. Alongside, I demand that SC/ST dominated regions like Madhya Pradesh and Chattishgarh need to be equipped with good coaching facilities for the students preparing for the UPSC, PSC, Army, Navodaya and NDA exams. I would like to urge upon the Government to enhance the number of hostels in these areas.

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE: Budget is focused on agriculture, farmers, poor and middle class people. I wholeheartedly support the demands for grants of the Ministry. Above 700 kilometer long my Parliamentary Constituency

is the largest tribal region of the country. This region is very backward and densely tribal populated Naxal affected region. Tribal and backward caste people living in the region are socially, economically and educationally backward. As the tribal people living in the region given Patta of the land on which they were farming, similarly, non-tribal, Bengalis and OBCs may be provided Patta of the land on which they are farming by relaxing the rules so that their standard of living can be improved. Naxal affected and tribal populated Garhchiroli district of Maharashtra has also been included in the list of aspirational district. The programmes of the Government are not being implemented in this district. The programmes may be implemented seriously and effectively so that the problem of Naxalism can be addressed. The Schemes of the Union Government must be implemented effectively in Garhchiroli.

SHRI RAJU BISTA: This budget has given a definitive push to social sector and increased the budgetary allocation for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment by 14%. Allocation of Rs. 10,103.57 crore to this Ministry shows the commitment of our Government towards ensuring welfare of all the marginalized people across the nation. Fellowship for OBCs has been increased by 71.4%. Our country has moved forward to fulfill the vision of an Aspirational India, Economic Development and Caring Society. The vision presented to us by the Government will not only lay a strong foundation for the growth of our country, but

will also have a lasting impact on the future of our nation. I am hopeful that the Minister will kindly address the issues confronting Darjeeling.

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR: The function of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is to empower the downtrodden classes by making an inclusive society. A national action plan to reduce the demand of drugs has been implemented. The persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being empowered through entrepreneurship. The youngsters going for inter caste marriages are given financial incentive under the Dr. Ambedkar Scheme in order to bring about social harmony. The Government is also working in the direction of empowerment of the differently abled. Budget allocation for different schemes being implemented for different weaker sections of the society has been increased. This is highly appreciable.

DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE: A number of schemes have been announced for the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, OBC and the differently abled persons in the Demands for Grants of this Ministry. However, these schemes will be successful only when the last person in the queue gets its benefit. Budgetary allocation for the post-matric scholarship for the SC students has been reduced by almost 50 per cent. State Governments need more funds for post-matric scholarship for SC and ST students. Scholarships of 1,29,511 students in Maharashtra are still pending. The Government of Maharashtra has sent several proposals to the Union Government under different schemes but none of them has

been sanctioned. In this Budget, there has been no allocation of funds for schemes and programmes to prevent alcoholism and drug abuse. The Government of Maharashtra is planning to set up Transgender Board and a Helpline for LGBTQIA community. Similar approach should be adopted by the Centre to help this community. The census of 2021 should be a caste based census and the census form should have a separate column to indicate OBC.

SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA: Today, 323 schemes are being run by the Government for the Scheduled Castes. Even today 75% of our population lives in Kutchha houses in villages. Budget allocation of 83,257 crore rupees will be spent through 223 schemes which means each scheme will get 19.43% of the funds which is very less. Today, the girls belonging to dalit community, SC/ST community are studying. Pre-matric or Post-matric scholarship amount is very little and needs to be increased. In addition to this, there is UGC, Rehabilitation of bonded labour, National fellowship for SCs grants for NGOs which all need to be increased. Frequent mention about creamy layer is being made while our reserved posts are lying vacant. Creamy layer should be talked about only after the reservation targets are achieved. Coaching centres for the OBCs should be started in the districts because their children cannot bear the hefty amount needed for coaching. The Government should take their responsibility.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: The government has always put the interests of the backward classes, schedule castes and scheduled tribes at the top of the priority

list. Under 'National Overseas Scholarship for OBCs, the Government has allocated almost 6 times more funds as compared to the allocation in 2018-19. This will allow the poor students who cannot afford education overseas to seek scholarship from the central government and fulfil their dreams. I am very thankful to the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji for his vision towards rehabilitation of beggars and empowerment of the transgender community and their rights, a category of people who were never attended in past. In Rajasthan, there is close to 51% increase in atrocities against SCs/STs as compared to 2018. I request the Hon'ble Minister to take this matter with the Rajasthan State Government to protect their rights.

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT: Our Government is committed to the welfare of all sections of the society, including farmers, traders, small business, unemployed youth and middle class. I whole heartedly congratulate the Government for the increase in the budget allocation for ministry of social justice and employment and the tribal affairs ministry. My suggestion is that we should customize tribal development programmes keeping in view their traditional practices, their belief systems and aspirations of the community. We need to study their medicine systems, research on them and strengthen them.

DR. S.T. HASAN: The Government has utilized just 27 per cent Budget till November out of Rs.4700 crore sanctioned for the minorities in the year 2019. The Government has used just 17.6 per cent of the funds allocated for pre-matric

scholarship, post-matric scholarship and merit-cum-means scholarship. It is the responsibility of the Government to compensate the people if there is any damage caused to the people in the riots. The Government should conduct caste-based census and allocate the Budget accordingly.

SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI: The Department of Social Justice touches the lives of, at least, 65 per cent population of the society. The two main problems facing the Social Justice & Empowerment Department are lesser allocations and lesser utilization of funds. We know the ground reality that the benefits of the well-intended schemes do not reach the target groups. The Direct Benefit Transfer to the beneficiaries is a big achievement of this Government. The Department has to make an efficient mechanism so that the benefits reach the target group that is deprived of the benefits of the well-intended schemes introduced by the Government. We have to make our implementation machinery more efficient and make officials accountable. In Jammu & Kashmir, we have, at least, one million people who migrate from Jammu to higher regions of Kashmir with their livestock during summer. The benefits of free gas cylinder do not reach them. I would request the hon. Minister to come up with some kind of scheme so that the Bakarwals and Gujjars that constitute ST community of Jammu & Kashmir, who migrate from Jammu to higher regions of Kashmir in summer, get access to the benefits. We can introduce an aggressive scheme of solar lights for the benefit of these sections.

DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE This Ministry has been working for the welfare of those who have taken birth among the SC/ST, OBC or socially, economically backward classes. The Government has implemented a number of schemes for the empowerment of 'divyang' people. I would like to submit that the Bill for the protection and welfare of the rights of transgender people was passed during the Modi regime itself. The Modi Government has taken a historical decision to give the OBC Commission a constitutional status. I would like to demand that the Government may construct hostels separately for OBC students. Census of OBC people may be held so that a decision could be taken about providing reservation to them in proportion to their total population. There is no column for OBC in the online census form. This column may be included therein. The Budget for the OBC people may be raised in proportion to their population. The country has been doing very well under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister. I appreciate the work being done with a motto of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas aur Sabka Vishwas'. I support this Budget.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: The population of Scheduled Caste in the country is 16.6 percent. In the budget 2.35 percent allocation for Scheduled Castes and 1.45 percent for Scheduled Tribes have been increased but inflation has risen four percent. The Budget allocation for SC/ST is less in comparison to past years. It is always witnessed that sub-plans are formulated but lacks proper implementation. Many Standing Committees, Committees on Social Justice and

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have reiterated it. We have been demanding for the last 6 years that if any law is enacted, then it should be implemented. As per population of my Constituency, three lakh students are beneficiaries of post Matric Scholarship but it is learnt that Schemes are being diluted. As per present guidelines, the funds for Scholarship will be enhanced next year but we have not received funds for the past years and hence number of beneficiaries declines. The atrocities being committed on Dalits should be prevented.

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: The present budget is a unique budget. The Government has done unprecedented work on all provisions mentioned in Article 38, 41 and 46 of the Constitution which is commendable. The Government has strengthened the deprived, different classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, aged, victims of alcohol and drug abuse of the society under various programmes for educational, economic and social development during past years so that all could live active, safe and respected life and fulfil their all basic needs. The Government has made untiring efforts to ensure equal opportunities for development of all. I strongly support the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and I request to allocate funds for holistic development of my Parliamentary Constituency which is a Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe dominated and backward area.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER: This country has become a centre for discrimination on the basis of religion and caste. The Delhi Minority Commission said violence during clashes between anti and pro-Citizenship Amendment Act protesters in the last week of February was one-sided and well-planned. The Panel observed that the maximum damage was inflicted upon Muslim households and places of business. DMC also said that the Delhi Police should be held accountable for letting the school be used by the rioters. The Muslims are the biggest religious minorities in this country. They are facing social inequality and security challenges. We must have a legislation for preventing this kind of a thing. The Government should not support provocative speeches. As regards physically-challenged persons are concerned, the three per cent reservation for differently-abled persons is also not being adhered to. I humbly request the Government to do justice for differently-abled persons also.

SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA: As per the Tribal sub plan, the Budget should be as per the population of tribals. There should be a balance between growth aspirations and interests/development of tribals. Weak defence by the Government has led to the Supreme Court passing an order for eviction of over two million Adivasi and forest dwellers' families. There is genuine fear that the Government's silence is a deliberate attempt to sabotage the Forest Rights Act and thus allow for a mass eviction once again. Land is being diverted for projects in many states in violation of FRA and even in States where the Forest Rights Act has

not been implemented at all, such as Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The Government has also issued a series of orders intended to make it easier for companies to take over forest land. The Government has also made a constant effort to curtail the access of forest dwellers to forest produce. Both the Central and State Governments have failed to record people's rights and ownership over forest produce, have not removed monopoly control over forest produce by forest department even though this is required under the Forest Rights Act. As Forest Rights Act faces serious existential threat it is worthwhile to remember that the law was enacted in response to a protracted struggle by tribals and forest dwellers of this country for their legal rights. Recent Supreme Court judgement on not having reservations as Fundamental rights for Promotions is really unfortunate. We would like the Government to come up with Ordinance/necessary legislations or file a review petition in Supreme Court. Finally, I would like to ask the Government if they are planning to provide age relaxation to under 10 per cent economically weaker sections quota. This is delayed for some time now and need to be urgently looked upon.

SHRI SYED IMTIAZ JALEEL: The Hon. Supreme Court has observed that Caste discrimination and untouchability still persist in the country. The evils have not been eliminated from the society in spite of enactment of stringent laws against Triple Talaq and atrocities on Dalits. The mentality and thinking should be changed towards Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes alongwith enhancing

budget for them. There is one category in Dalits who still craves to study. The Government should take a decision to prohibit the opening of Desi Liquor Shops in any Dalit Mohalla. The Government should not provide subsidy for Haj because it is a religious activity. We had requested the Government to use that subsidy for schools meant for Muslim girls. The Government discontinued the Haj Subsidy but did not open any school. Today if we want to do welfare of Dalits then there is a need to promote education and provide demand driven scholarships. If we really want to give justice to Dalits then there is a need of sincere efforts and we hope that the Government will do it.

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR: This Government has increased approximately Rs. 9000 crore for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in this year's budget as compared to the previous year but the budget is not utilized fully. Aligarh Muslim University is not a Minority Institution and it is a University of National Importance. Therefore, provision of reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and upper class should be implemented there. The grants for Aligarh Muslim University should not be released till the reservation policy is not implemented there. The amount of scholarship be increased keeping in view the inflation because all children are not able to study due to lack of money. This Government has taken several initiatives for social and economic equality in the country.

SHRI RAHUL KASWAN: The budgetary allocation for the Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry in the financial year 2020-21 has increased by 13.7%. The allocations for the SCs, STs and OBCs students and National Action Plan for Senior Citizens should be increased. The allocation for Development and Welfare Board for Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Communities increased for Rs. 0.4 crore to Rs. 1.24 crore. The Government should plan awareness drive in every remote area for upliftment of these sections of society. The allocation for Pre-Matric Scholarship for Children of those engaged in unclean occupations and prone to health hazards like manual scavengers, waste pickers, tanners and flayers sewage and septic tank workers should be increased. As they are in dire need of State assistance. I would like to suggest that more funds should be allocated for strengthening of Machinery for Enforcement of Protection of Civil Rights Act and Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989 to check the increasing attacks and atrocities against the SCs and STs and provide proper relief and rehabilitation of the victims. More exclusive special courts should be set up for speedy trial and providing legal aid to the victims of the atrocities. The allocation for mental health programs and institutes should be increased. The Budget 2020-21 has given a decisive push to social sector with enhanced allocations for welfare schemes.

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: The Government is putting its earnest effort to provide housing, water and electricity for each and every person of all sections, whether it is SC, ST or OBC category, sitting in the last row of the society. The

Government has passed laws on the rights of Harijans and Transgenders. Governments have failed to protect the interests of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. I urge upon the Government to fill the vacant posts of SC, ST and OBC in government at the earliest. Candidates belonging to OBC, SC and ST should be recruited as soon as possible to the post of judges in the High Courts. To provide reservation in government jobs for Economically Backward Farmers of India, the Government should also include farmers with more than five acres of agricultural land within the ambit of EWS reservation. The recommendations of the Reneke Commission of the year 2008 may be implemented with immediate effect for the welfare of the nomadic castes such as Ghadia Lohar, Banjare etc. in the country. The castes of nomadic and semi-nomadic communities may be classified in the category of SC, ST and OBC categories. To make the country free from drugs, De-addiction and Rehabilitation Centres may be set up at district and subdivision level and establish Vocational Training Centres to bring such rehabilitated persons in the main stream of the society.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : The Government has failed in formulating an effective policy for prevention of desertion of senior citizens by their children and relatives. There is need to chalk out a separate scheme for providing special assistance for skill development of Other Backward Classes, de-notified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes/Extremely Backward Classes. There is also need to launch special programmes for disabled persons so as to make them self-reliant.

The Budget has given a marginal increase of 14 per cent for Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry and 7.5 per cent increase for Tribal Affairs. I do appreciate the decision of increasing the funds allocated for Scholarship Schemes for Meritorious Students of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. It is a mandatory obligation on the part of the Government to see that these marginalised sections of the society, especially the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have to be protected. The right to reservation in education and employment provided to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and economically weaker section is adversely affected due to disinvestment and privatisation. I would urge upon the Government to review and revise the guidelines for reservation in education and employment provided to economically weaker section. I would urge upon the Government to set up a National Commission for Economically Weaker Sections of the Society belonging to general classes.

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: In this budget allocation for Social Justice and Empowerment has increased meagerly by 14 percent. The budget allocation for SCs, STs, OBCs and Nomadic Tribes should be enhanced. Telangana State Government has set up special funds for SC, ST, Minority and OBC category and arrangements for separate Gram Panchayats have been made for them. A provision has been made to give 3 acres of land to landless agricultural labourers. I demand that Union Government should allocate funds for this programme. Union

Government should provide funds for upliftment of people belonging to SC/ST/OBC category.

SHRI PRAVEEN KUMAR NISHAD: Today, the Bharatiya Janata Party Government is working with the objective of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas'. I would like to congratulate the Government for that. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Nishad and Machua communities of Uttar Pradesh which are socially and economically backward even today. The budget allocated for their development is not reaching them. From the year 2018-19, there has been an increase of about 12.1 per cent in this budget. 1,35,087 people have been provided loan under Skill Development Training. Shringverpur Dham is on the banks of the river Ganges. Our Government is developing this Dham by spending around 186 crore rupees. Certificates of Scheduled Castes should be issued to the people belonging to Kewat, Mallah, Rajbhar, Manjhi, Mujawar, Kashyap and Turha castes as in the absence of this certificate, their development is being affected. The budget which has been passed, is a very good budget. This is sufficient for the development of castes and the overall development of the country however, there should be an amendment in it. Efforts should be made for the upliftment of the castes which participated in the revolt of 1857 and are economically weak even today.

***DR. THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN:** The objective of social justice is to ensure equality for all. But many of our institutions including the Hon. Courts are engaged in making adverse impact to the cause of social justice in our country. The recent judgement of the Hon. Supreme Court has made social justice and employment questionable, the Union Government should go for an appeal against the recent verdict of the Hon. Supreme Court. A law should be legislated to protect reservation and the law thus legislated to protect reservation should be included in the 9th Schedule to the Constitution of India. A bill to check hate crimes should be brought. After dismantling Planning Commission, NITI Aayog came into existence. As a result Union Government gave up Sub Plans like SC Sub Plan and Tribal Sub Plan. This has resulted in reduction of funds to the SC and ST people of this country. A legislation to check honour killings should be brought. Post-matric scholarships have been provided to the Students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Since the Union Government stopped releasing funds to the State Governments in this regard, the State Governments also did not pay attention. Therefore the Post-matric Scholarship Scheme should be continued. Dalits and the supporters of Dalits are being arrested and threatened on false allegations. Therefore the Union Government should do the needful to get the Bhima Koregaon case closed and release all those prisoners who are in jail.

* Original in Tamil

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I support the Demand for Grants 2020-21 of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Our Government is working towards strengthening social justice and economic democracy and to ensure ease of living for the common man. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 has been strengthened which is important for protection and dignity of members of SC and ST community. There are more than 2 crore 50 lakh Divyangjan in our country. The Government has enacted the 'Rights of persons with Disabilities Act 2016'. Provision has been made for 4 per cent reservation in Government jobs and 5 per cent reservation in higher education for Divyangjan. In the 151st birth year of the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, the department is committed to correct the historical injustice and indignity suffered by manual scavengers and rehabilitates them to a life of dignity. The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program is being utilized to train 10000 sanitation workers and waste pickers in safe, healthy and mechanized cleaning. Employment opportunities have been provided to the youth through programmes, such as, 'Seekho Aur Kamao', 'Usttad', 'Garib Nawaz Kaushal Vikas Yojana', 'Nai Roshni' etc. Keeping in mind the objective of womens' empowerment, the restriction on women above 45 years of age to perform Haj pilgrimage unaccompanied by their male relatives has been removed. The Ministry has disbursed Rs. 190.62 crores to 1595 NGOs towards the maintenance of old age homes across the country. Under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, a total of 99431

devices have been provided to senior citizens belonging to the BPL categories thereby benefitting 43865 Senior Citizens.

***SHRI BHAGWANT MANN:** No Government has been able to rein in the menace of poverty. Poverty can be checked only if our children become educated. So quality education is the need of the hour. We ask the Government for employment but, the Government provides us food-grains as doles. In Delhi standard of Government schools has been uplifted. The standard of education of Government schools should be improved upon everywhere. Sweepers and employees working under the Mid-day Scheme, get hardly 1600 or 1700 rupees as wages. Their jobs should be made permanent. The Government schemes should reach the poorest of the poor. The rules of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna are very strict, they should be relaxed.

DR. SANGHAMITRA MAURYA: I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji for giving equal rights and justice to the people belonging to dalit and backward communities of the country. Recently, he has introduced a scheme in Prayagraj which has found a place in Guinness Book of World Records. I want that such schemes should be introduced in my Lok Sabha Constituency also so that people of my constituency can also be benefited. There have been several commissions in the past but none has done the work of giving constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Class. This has been done by the Modi

* Original in Punjabi

Government. Even today people belonging to backward classes are not at key posts whether it is category A, B and C. The reason behind this is that vacancies are 2 or 3 in numbers and despite 27% reservation people are deprived of it. I want that vacancies should be created in large numbers so that the youth can get the benefit of reservation. Our Government is constantly concerned about women and working for their development through various schemes. Today the people belonging to the dalit and backward classes have progressed under the leadership of hon. Modiji. Certainly they will get their due rights. My request is that today when every backward class is getting an opportunity to progress then this backward class should also get an opportunity.

***DR. D. RAVIKUMAR:** Efforts are on in every department of the Government to dilute the principle of equality enshrined in the Constitution. Dr. Ambedkar not only ensured equality before law through Article 14 but also he ensured that no discrimination is made against any one through Article 15 of the Constitution. Article 16 gives equal opportunities to all the citizens. Through Article 17, he ensured abolition of untouchability. I therefore urge upon the Union Government to honour Dr. Ambedkar by observing his Birthday as a Day of Equality. The Post-matric Scholarship is a right that we got even before we got independence. The present Government has brought changes in the Post-matric Scheme by making scholarship amount same for all. Students will be getting Post-matric

* Original in Tamil

scholarships only after clearing an entrance exam. This effort will affect the future of Dalit students of our country. Therefore no change should be made to the existing Post-matric Scholarship Scheme. Moreover, additional funds should be allocated for the same.

SHRI MALOOK NAGAR: Vacant posts in all institutions, authorities, commissions etc. related to SCs, STs and OBCs should be filled out at the earliest. Census of OBCs should be conducted in the entire country. Gurjar-Pratihara has ruled this country for around three-hundred years and as per K. K. Ahmad Report, Ram Temple at Ayodhya had been constructed by Gurjar-Pratihara therefore representation should be given to backward classes in Ram Mandir Trust.

DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR : The increase in budgetary allocation for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is a welcome step. The Government Schemes like Awas Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Mudra Yojana are meant for uplifting weaker sections of the society. The Government has increased allocation for Central scholarships, empowerment through education, grants in aid for States, National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation, Skill Development and Overseas Scholarships for the welfare of the backward class. I urge upon the Government to provide interest subsidy on educational loan and give weightage to meritorious student by giving scholarship. There is a need to work hard to encourage and boost the confidence among our weaker sections. The Government is working for the progress of India with the

motto of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas. I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR: National commission for Scheduled Castes is entrusted with the job of safeguarding the services of the SCs, their educational development, atrocities against them and economic development. But only Rs. 25 crore has been provided in the Budget for the Commission. This Commission can make only recommendations, they are not binding on anybody, therefore, amendment should be made in Article 33(a) for two things. One, it should play the judiciary role. Two, within a reasonable time, the report submitted to the hon. President should be submitted to the House. Regarding the scholarship, PM Young Achievers Scheme is coming, this Scholarship scheme is going to replace the scheme that has been brought by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Regarding rehabilitation of manual scavengers, it has been provided only Rs. 110 crore. In 1992 itself, this scheme was to be scrapped and scavenging had to be stopped. There is no point in doing it every year. Government should give the money in one shot and close the scheme.

SHRI DNV SENTHILKUMAR S.: Self-respect marriage law should be enacted for entire India. The differently abled people and the transgenders should be given reservation in the Government setup. Sewage cleaning should be robotised and mechanised. Bonded labour should be rescued and they should be given more

compensation and rehabilitation. Kurumba and Narikurava Tribes should be brought into the Schedule Tribes category.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI : The Government has increased the budget by 14 percent for the upliftment of socially backward classes, SC and ST people and made appropriate provisions to protect the interests of Divyangjans by providing facilities and equipments. The allocation in this budget has been increased for the upliftment of aboriginal, fisherman. The budget provides special provisions for the education of meritorious children belonging to backward classes. The Government has enacted legislation to protect the interests of people belonging to the category of Scheduled Castes. The Government has granted constitutional status by creating a commission for the rights of the people of OBC society. The Government has worked to provide houses and toilets to the backward people of the society. The Ministry of Social Justice has provided Rs. 51 thousand for the marriage of a girl child belonging to SC category. I urge upon the Government to provide a single form for all facilities under social welfare. The Government has made its utmost effort for the upliftment of people belonging to SC, ST and OBC Categories.

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY: An allocation of Rs. 11,429 crores has been made for the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in this Budget which is 40 per cent more than the allocation made for the ministry during the previous year. An increase of 30 per cent has been made in allocation for scholarships to students alongwith this measures have been taken to eradicate manual scavenging. Now

share of Union Government in Post-metric scholarship has been increased to 75 per cent. The scheme for conservation of local languages spoken by Tribals is a welcome step. The Hon. Minister has extended assistance to differently abled and aged persons in my Parliamentary Constituency Pali through organizing camps under ALIMCO and Vayoshri Yojana. Rules of distribution of battery operated tri-cycle should be relaxed and preference should be given differently abled persons in the age group of 15 to 40 years. Disability certificates of differently abled persons should be reviewed timely and new certificate should be issued to them so that they can take benefit of Government schemes.

SNEHLATA SHRIVASTAVA
Secretary General

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