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LOK SABHA

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES
(Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Monday, March 14, 2022 / Phalguna 23, 1943 (Saka)

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM AUSTRIA

HON. SPEAKER: I am immensely pleased that at our invitation, an Austrian Parliamentary Delegation accompanied by HE Mr. Wolf Gang Sobotka, President of the National Council of Austria and HE Miss Christine Schwarz-fuchs, President of the Federal Council of Austria, is on visit to India.

On behalf of the Hon. Members of the House and on my behalf, I extend warm welcome to the Austrian Parliamentary Delegation to India. At present, they are sitting in the special box of the House.

Austrian parliamentary delegation reached India on Sunday, March 13, 2022. The same day, they visited Agra. They are also scheduled to visit Hyderabad before their departure from India on Thursday, March 17, 2022. We wish them a pleasant and successful stay in our country. Through them we extend our compliments and best wishes to the National Council of Austria, the Federal Council, the Government and the friendly people of Austria on my behalf and on behalf of the House.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, with profound grief, I have to inform the House about the sad demise of three of our former colleagues.

Shri S. Singaravadivel was a member of the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Lok Sabha representing the Thanjavur Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu. He was a member of the Public Accounts Committee and the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table. Shri S. Singaravadivel had passed away on 31 January 2022 in Thanjavur at the age of 87 years.

Shri H. B. Patil was a member of the 8th Lok Sabha representing the Bagalkot Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka. Shri Patil was a member of the Committee on Petitions. Shri H. B. Patil passed away on 1 February 2022 in Bagalkot at the age of 82 years.

Shri Hemanand Biswal was a member of the 15th Lok Sabha representing the Sundargarh Parliamentary Constituency of Odisha. He served as Chairperson of the Committee on Labour and was also a member of the General Purposes Committee and Committee on Public Undertakings. An active social and political worker, Shri Biswal had served as Member of the Odisha Legislative Assembly for 6 terms. He had also served as Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha. Shri Hemanand Biswal passed away on 25 February 2022 in Bhubaneswar at the age of 82 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of our former colleagues. I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to their bereaved families.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

THE UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

BUDGET- 2022-23

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS-2021-22
(THE UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR)

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS - 2021-22

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS - 2018-19

*MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (1) **SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR** laid a statement regarding participation of Members of Lok Sabha in programmes meant for implementation of various Government schemes.
- (2) **SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI** laid a statement regarding need to address the problem of acute shortage of drinking water in Sikar district, Rajasthan.
- (3) **SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL** laid a statement regarding need to connect villages in Maharajganj Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar with high speed broadband network.
- (4) **SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI** laid a statement regarding paddy procurement in Odisha.
- (5) **DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY** laid a statement regarding completion of development projects in Deoghar, Jharkhand.
- (6) **SHRI SANJAY BHATIA** laid a statement regarding need to re-open the path between village Ujhah and Bapauli Anaj Mandi in Panipat district, Haryana.
- (7) **SHRI JAYANT SINHA** laid a statement regarding need to improve digital platform for online education in Jharkhand.
- (8) **SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL** laid a statement regarding need to enhance the pension under EPS-1995.
- (9) **SHRI RAMDAS TADAS** laid a statement regarding need for restoration of train services affected due to Covid-19 pandemic in Wardha Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.

* Laid on the Table as directed by the Chair.

- (10) **SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH** laid a statement regarding need to provide financial assistance to farmers to promote organic farming.
- (11) **SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN** laid a statement regarding setting up of an AIIMS at Kinalur in Kozhikode, Kerala.
- (12) **SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN** laid a statement regarding plight of Indian students enrolled in various universities in Ukraine.
- (13) **SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND** laid a statement regarding operationalization of Vellore Airport, Tamil Nadu.
- (14) **SHRI SANJAY JADHAV** laid a statement regarding completion of pending railways works in Parbhani Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.
- (15) **SHRI KAUSHLENDRA KUMAR** laid a statement regarding present status of smart cities mission in Bihar.
- (16) **SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB** laid a statement regarding inclusion of Asrukhala Jora, Cuttack district, Odisha in National Wetland Conservation Programme.
- (17) **KUNWAR DANISH ALI** laid a statement regarding ground-water pollution caused by industrial units in Amroha district, Uttar Pradesh.
- (18) **SHRI B.B. PATIL** laid a statement regarding grant of funds for National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) at Zaheerabad in Telangana.
- (19) **SHRI PRINCE RAJ** laid a statement regarding storm water drainage scheme in Samastipur, Bihar.
- (20) **SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL** laid a statement regarding need to conduct Army recruitment in Satara Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.

MOTION

Re: Suspension of Rule 205

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN) moved that this House do suspend rule 205 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, which provides that

there shall be no discussion on the Budget on the day it is presented to the House, in its application to discussion on the Budget for 2022-23 and Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2021-22 of the Government of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, to enable same day presentation of and discussion on the Budget.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI *opposing the Motion, said:* If we look at Rule 206, Rule 205 says that there shall be no discussion on Budget on the day on which it is presented in the House. My submission is that there are certain Rules which form the basic structure of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the House. Therefore, these are beyond the amending power of the House. There are certain rules which are sacrosanct. So, I want a ruling from the Chair whether Rule 205 is within the scope of amendment as proposed by Rule 388, or is beyond the amending power because it constitutes the basic structure of these rules. My second submission is that the Budget which the hon. Finance Minister has presented is an important document. So we should be given time to study it. I would like to ask what we are supposed to discuss in the House when we do not even have the papers in front of us? So, under those circumstances my submission is to please allow us time and let us have this discussion tomorrow.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : I would like to reiterate Rule 205, which says there shall be no discussion of the Budget on the day on which it is presented to the House. Today, the hon. Finance Ministe has presented the budget of Jammu and Kashmir for the year 2022-23. We fully agree with it. But there cannot be a discussion on the same subject matter today. It is because the Constitution of India provides for the scrupulous scrutiny of each and every penny which is being spent out of the Consolidated Fund of India. It has to be approved by the Parliament. This is the right of the Parliament and the right of the Members of this House. We do not have the copy of the Budget. So by no means can this Motion be allowed to go through. Secondly, I have an objection arising out of Rule 215 and 216 and for this I am seeking a ruling from the Chair. Rule 216 is very clear that the original Demands for Grants shall never be discussed with the Supplementary Demands for Grants. However, the Speaker has ample right to suspend the rule to which I agree but there is a specific provision in the rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business by virtue of Rule 216. Hence, my submission is that in no way can this Motion be carried out.

The Motion was adopted

SUBMISSION BY THE MEMBER

Re: wage ceiling under ESI Scheme

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV) *responding to the issue raised by an hon. Member, said:* New Social Security Code has been introduced by the Government. We know that through the new labour code that the government has passed under the Social Security Code, the jurisdiction and scope of that ESIC is going to extend further. Also, the steps for framing rules under the Social Security Code is going on in various states. With the introduction of Social Security Code, not only the organized sector, gig workers and platform workers in the unorganized sector will also be widely accepted under the scheme. Various sub-committees have been constituted by the Ministry of Labour for its future capacity building and various decisions have been taken by the Board. We all know that this is one of the best scheme. We are working to expand it under the Social Security Code.

THE UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

BUDGET- 2022-23

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS- THE UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR -2022-23

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS - THE UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR- 2021-22

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS- THIRD AND FINAL BATCH-2021-22

And

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS --2018-19

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member has raised the point of order under Rule 216. The hon. Member argues that the Supplementary Grants for the year 2021-22 cannot be discussed with the original demands for the year 2022-23 relating to Jammu and Kashmir. In this regard, on behalf of the Speaker, I want to tell the House that the

Demands for Grants for the coming financial year are presented before the beginning of the financial year and are also passed. Article 115 of the Constitution provides that if the amount authorized by the original demands passed by the House is found to be insufficient for the purposes of the year or on any such new service that cannot be granted in the annual statement for that year and if the government wants money, Supplementary Demands of the previous sessions can be taken for such requirement by the Government. When such Supplementary Demands are brought before the House in a session, Rule-116 prohibits that Members, while speaking on Supplementary Grants, should not discuss substantive demands already passed by the House ordinarily in the Budget session. Therefore, while speaking on the Supplementary Demands, the Members should speak only on those demands from which the supplementary demands have been made, the members should bring to the discussion the original demands already passed. The original demands listed on item no-25 are regarding the provision of funds for the upcoming financial year 2022-23, while the Supplementary Grants listed on item no-26 pertain to the financial year 2021-22. The original demands for the year 2021-22 have already been passed by this House on March 18, 2021. There is no relation between the original Demands for Grants for the next financial year listed on item No.-25 and Supplementary Demands listed at item No.-26 and discussing them together does not violate Rule-216. Therefore, I dismiss point of order. Let me tell you that this is not the first time that the discussion on the Budget of a state is happening on the day of its presentation. In the past also the Budget of the states has been presented on a single day and has also been taken for discussion. Similarly, the day of the presentation of Supplementary Demands for Grants has been taken up for discussion. It is for the House to take a view whether any Rule is to be suspended or not when any such motion for suspension is brought before the House by hon. Minister or any other Member subject to the permission of hon. Speaker. The House functions not only by Rules and Directions, the House functions on precedents also. We have a Rules Committee. If there is some difference during implementation of certain Rules, the Rules Committee will take cognizance of it. In that respect I believe what is being raised by the hon. Member can also be deliberated in the Rules Committee. But the final say is of the hon. Speaker and also of the House. Furthermore, the Budget of Union Territory, I would just like to mention here, without a legislature is included in Demands for Grants of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI *initiating said:* It is said in the Budget Speech that the Budget 2022-23 for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir shall focus on good governance, deepening grassroot democracy, accelerated development and inclusive growth. These are extremely noble sentiments but ground reality is totally different. At

the time of abrogation of Article 370, it was said that it would emotionally integrate Jammu and Kashmir with India and facilitate faster development of Jammu and Kashmir. However, both these objectives are far from achieved in these 33 months. Instances of ceasefire violations have increased. Official figures claim that 70 per cent of the locals who had joined militancy, were neutralized. However, if their involvement in terrorism has increased, this is worrisome. It was said that decision about statehood to Jammu and Kashmir would be taken soon. The Government has not executed this announcement yet. Delimitation process is on in Jammu and Kashmir. Political parties of Jammu and Kashmir are not happy with this process. There is a need to actively involve the local political parties in this process. Some seats in Jammu and Kashmir assembly should be reserved for Sikh minorities. It was claimed that investors would be attracted to Jammu and Kashmir after abrogation of Article 370, but 99.9 per cent of the applicants for setting up industries in Jammu and Kashmir are the domicile of Jammu and Kashmir. The moot point is that there is negligible interest shown by investors from outside Jammu and Kashmir for investing in that state. Tourism industry has suffered a lot. Jammu and Kashmir has passed through a difficult time during the last three years. In this administrative Budget, 73 per cent allocation is for home department. This itself indicates that circumstances have not improved there.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE SHARMA: We all know that there was rampant abuse of power in Jammu and Kashmir under the pretext of Article 370. Presently, employment is being given to the youth of Jammu and Kashmir according to their qualification. The funds allocated for a project are spent on that project only. Earlier, Jammu region faced discrimination but now Jammu and Kashmir is on the path of overall development. Three tier Panchayat system has been put in place in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time. The Central Government did commendable work particularly during Covid period. The work on AIIMS, IIM, ring road, national highway and Jammu airport in Jammu and Kashmir has started after abrogation of Article 370. Road network is being developed in the entire Jammu and Kashmir. Works are being undertaken through the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana also. However, I want that some work under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Plus should also be undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir because some people have been left out. There are numerous employees in Jammu and Kashmir who are working on need basis and ad-hoc basis in different departments. I urge the hon. Finance Minister to provide financial assistance to the Union Territory administration so that these employees can be regularized or brought under the ambit of the Minimum Wages Act. The outstanding wages of the MNREGA workers should be cleared. Work on several roads and bridges has been stalled. I urge the Government to take ahead all the stalled works. There was a proposal to raise some battalions of IRP. The candidates

who have cleared the written examination should be given relaxation. Ceasefire at the border is being completely followed. People of Jammu and Kashmir are happy that justice is being done through delimitation.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: This Budget of Jammu and Kashmir is a Budget for bureaucratic expenditure. The expenditure is mainly on Home Department and Police. Abrogation of Article 370 was a wrong step for which the country will have to pay in future. This is deprivation of the rights of people of Jammu and Kashmir to not have their own Government. This Budget is basically a revenue budget; only 37 per cent is capital outlay, 63 per cent is revenue expenditure. With this, the situation of Jammu and Kashmir will not change. The Budget has nothing significant for trade and industry; one Opposition Party in Jammu and Kashmir has said that this Budget does not address the rising unemployment and unprecedented prices of all essential items of regular use. The people of Jammu and Kashmir remain poor. It is because there is not so much scope for employment. Land is limited. Even after land reforms people have not received land. The problems of unemployment and under-development are the biggest problems in Jammu and Kashmir. This Government had significantly failed in providing employment and jobs to the people. What happened to your promise of rehabilitating Kashmiri Pandits in the valley? You have not re-established one single pandit family in the Kashmir valley.

SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY: We have to promote budget tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. Due to COVID, for almost one and a half years, tourists could not go to that place. But now, slowly, tourism is growing. There is a shortage of power. There is unemployment problem. There is no doubt about that. Industrial development is required there. The pashmina shawls are very famous but there is no support to the weavers from the Central Government or the State Government. That is very much required. Then only, the local people will get employment and earn revenue. Efforts to improve the crowd management at the famous Vaishno Devi temple should be prioritized. New trekking routes in various wildlife protected areas is a good move. The initiative of making the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway an express highway is a good move.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH) *intervening said:* The most

amusing part of this discussion is that we are virtually discussing everything but the Budget. On the lines of the Wagah Border we have also started something at the Suchetgarh Border, where we have similar exchange of salute in the evening. Can the Congress Party say today on the Floor of this House that it will restore Article 370 on returning to power? You do not say that because you know what the public sentiment is. Hon. Home Minister has said, that at the appropriate time the statehood would be restored. But, that will not take 70 years. They are searching where Patel, Gandhi, Ambedkar and Subhash are. But it had to happen because Modiji has introduced a new political culture in this land. You have been seeking votes to come here. All of us are here with votes but we are not using votes as vote bank. We are using it where is required and to reach out, not for appeasement. We have redeemed Kashmir. We have done what Congress should have done. We have done what Congress promised to have done. Before 5th and 6th August and before this area became a Union Territory, the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was not implemented in Jammu and Kashmir under the alibi of 370. So, the article 370 was actually being used for guarding their own interests. But in Jammu and Kashmir, this law was introduced only about one and a half year back. Now, this has nothing to do with the special status or identity or autonomy or all those tall claims. There are a large number of such laws like the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, the Dowry Prohibition Act, the Prevention of Corruption Act that were not implemented in Jammu and Kashmir under the alibi of 370. National Conference and congress were ruling the State and still not implementing what they cherished as Rajiv Gandhi's hallmark. Now, Rs. 10,000 crore is directly going to the kitty of the local bodies. One of the hon'ble Members was saying that no investment has come from outside. But, Officially more than Rs. 50,000 crore has already been invested in Jammu and Kashmir. Like rest of the country, there have been issues of employment. But no Government in the world can give a salaried Government job to each and every individual. But, I agree that for a responsible Government the duty is to prepare means of livelihood. Now, the question is why these means of livelihood were not made available in Jammu and Kashmir even in spite of the fact that they were available in rest of the country, especially after 2016 when Stand-up India and Start-up India movements started in a big way. It is because the atmosphere was created in such a way that they lived in a cocoon and they are not given exposure from outside world. Whenever we come in conflict with Pakistan, a wise politician comes forward and says to stop water flowing to Pakistan. Maybe, he is not aware of the fact that our share of water is also flowing into Pakistan. With the Indus Water Treaty, the major share of our water was from Ravi river. There was dam called Shahpurkandi. During Sheikh Abdullah's regime, it was conceived and also stalled. Maybe, there was some consideration about the region. As a result of which, the entire

share of India's water through river Ravi was flowing into Pakistan. It was only with the personal intervention of the Prime Minister, a few years back, a fresh draft was prepared and the project is going to be completed by this year-end.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PINTU: Today, I am on my legs to speak in favour of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Budget, 2022-23. Grants and loans of Rs 35,581.44 crore are being given in this budget, which is Rs. 876.88 crore more than that of the last year. In this budget, an amount of Rs 5,958 crore has been allocated separately for Ladakh. After the abrogation of Article 370, the people of Jammu and Kashmir are being brought in the mainstream of development. For the first time, it has happened that now the budgetary allocation is spent on the development of Jammu and Kashmir. The funding of all the separatists was stopped. When I went to Jammu and Kashmir as a member of the Parliamentary Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, there was a belief in the people that the Government of India was doing something for us and the Committee of the House came to listen and would take care of our happiness and sorrow and our matters of concern. I would like to urge upon the hon. Finance Minister that a special package needs to be given to promote tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. For the first time, a separate provision has been made for Ladakh in this budget. As far as investment in Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, not only the people of the country are investing there, but foreigners are also coming to invest there. Through this House, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to make the recently released film, the Kashmir Files tax-free all across India. What is of paramount importance is the thing that we need to maintain the peace and tranquility that is there today.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI : The budget and supplementary demands of Jammu and Kashmir which we are discussing here comes under the rightful domain of the elected representatives of Jammu and Kashmir. This House has taken away this right from them. That's why, I would ask the government that elections should be held in Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest. The election should not be postponed there on the pretext of delimitation. The condition of Jammu and Kashmir is not hidden from anyone. Thousands of people died there in the last three decades. Kashmiri Pandits were expelled from there. Half Widow's figure is above 10 thousand. I want to ask how many Kashmiri Pandits were rehabilitated by the Government during the last two years. I would also like to ask how many people of Uttar Pradesh or Gujarat buy plots inside Kashmir? How much has been invested there? I want that there should be investment, the youth of that region should get employment and there should be peace and harmony there. The people to whom injustice has been meted out should get justice and employment as well. The assembly of Jammu and Kashmir should be restored. Jammu and Kashmir should be given full statehood. This government should introspect about how much has been gained

by bifurcating Jammu and Kashmir, what has been done and what is the situation on the border today?

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: I would have appreciated if we had been given a little more time so that we can have a more extensive debate on the Demands for Grants for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. A school named Delhi Public School is run there by a Kashmiri Pandit family. This Government wants to do so much for Kashmiri Pandits. Even through the challenging times, one family who did not leave Kashmir and who had fought, survived and ran a school there, was the Dhar Family. Now that family is being asked a lot of questions by the government agencies. This is one school which accommodates children with special needs. Is this how the Government wants to treat Kashmiri Pandits? The most worrisome number in this entire document is the debt at percentage of GDP is 53 per cent. It has been the highest ever. The words used in this document are 'likely investment in the projects. What does 'likely investments' mean? It does not assure anything. It says that the government is importing around 1200 sheep/goat units to be established in creation of employment opportunities for 2400 people. It makes no sense. All the industrialists in Jammu and Kashmir are very upset because of the Internet connections being stopped erratically. Business gets affected and so a lot of money, over a period of time, has been lost because of this. Electricity is still a problem. As this Government constantly talks about improvement, I would like to know as to what are the kinds of improvements that have taken place? The Government keeps talking about jobs. I would like to ask have they really created those many jobs. But in this entire big document, there is no mention of Kashmiri Pandits or any specific intervention done for refugees who left Kashmir during the insurgency or who have come back. Please include them in documents and make it a reality for their life.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: It is always gratifying to discuss about Jammu and Kashmir. There was a historic transformation in August, 2019 which should have happened much, much earlier. Today, the concept of One Nation, One Constitution, One Flag is being implemented in this country. We should take pride in that. One good thing that has happened is that the grass-root democracy is being strengthened. Around a thousand crore of rupees as grant has been provided to 4,290 gram panchayats. Earlier the fund that was being provided or that was being generated as revenue from Jammu and Kashmir State or that was being provided from the Union Government was getting itself absorbed in Srinagar or Jammu only. It never percolated to the gram panchayats. It never percolated to the rural areas of the state. I would also like to draw the attention of the Minister of Finance that this Direct Benefit Transfer should reach every beneficiary. There are so many things to do there in agriculture, horticulture, sericulture and sheep husbandry and fisheries sector. I would like to know as to how much money has been

provided to keep Srinagar free from flooding? A huge flood had occurred some years ago which devastated the whole city. The Ministry of Jal Shakti has provided some funding to prevent flooding. Has this money been utilised there? What major steps have been taken to keep these two big cities of the Union Territory free from flooding and how much money has been provided for this? I understand that a medical college is being setup there. Instead of putting up 5-star hotels at some specific places, there is actually a need to develop the villages. It is the village life of Jammu and Kashmir which needs to be developed as a tourist attraction. In order to upgrade the skills of textile workers, specific employment was also generated and centres were also created throughout the State. But since last one year, all those centres have been totally closed down and no money is being provided to those people who were imparting trainings. I would urge upon the Finance Minister to please look into this aspect.

SHRI JAMYANG TSERING NAMGYAL: It is being stated by the opposition and I was astonished to learn that it is being questioned as to why the Budget of Jammu and Kashmir is being discussed and debated in this House of the Indian Parliament. However, I would like to know as to whether the Budget of Jammu and Kashmir should be discussed in Indian Parliament or Pakistani Parliament. I would like to say that not only the Budget of Jammu and Kashmir, the Budget of Pakistani Occupied Kashmir, Aksai Chin and Shaksgam Valley which are integral part of India, should be presented here in this House symbolically. After the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, a new era has begun there. As many as 300 hon. MPs of this House visited Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. I would like to put on record this fact that our hon. Members could visit the Lal Chowk of Jammu and Kashmir as late as 9 O' Clock at night without any security. This is testimony to the fact that the conditions are improving in the state. After repeal of the Article 370, as a measure of social upliftment, people living in hills have been given 4 per cent and those belonging to economically weaker sections have been given 10 per cent reservation in jobs. It is for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir that political reservation has been given to people belonging to Scheduled Castes. The election of the District Development Councils have been held under this reservation. So far, 41.5 lakh people have been given domicile certificates. The Panchayati Raj Act has been amended and 3-tier Panchayats have been set up for the first time in the State. 278 DDC Members were elected in 20 districts along with 20 Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons. When I was the Chairman of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, its annual budget was only of Rs. 55 crore which has been increased to Rs. 264 crore now. The hon. Prime Minister has ensured that the benefits of the Union Budget reach the last person in the State. As many as 50 thousand families of Jammu & Kashmir have been covered under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana. 50 new

colleges have been set up in the State. The books of first to fifth class are being translated in Dogri, Hindi and Kashmiri languages. Many works have been undertaken under various social security schemes.

SHRI JASBIR SINGH GILL: I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to certain works which have been left out. As much as 73 per cent of Budget has been earmarked for law and order, yet our school teachers and people are being killed in the broad day light. Tourism is the mainstay of Jammu & Kashmir. We will have to develop Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh as a tourist circuit as it will provide jobs, growth and tax to the Government. There are many places in Jammu & Kashmir which are of great religious and historic significance. Nara-Nag Shiv temple, an ancient temple is about 1200 years old. Today, no upkeep of this temple is being done now. The Government should indentify such places, provide adequate funds for their upkeep and put in place a good management. Punjabi was one of the official languages of the State till one year back but I am sorry to state that Punjabi language has been excluded. This is injustice to our mother tongue and I request the Government to again include it as official language of the State.

SHRI HASNAIN MASOODI: Jammu & Kashmir has a population of about 1.5 crore and this population has been without any representation for the last four and a half years. Why is no Assembly there? On 5th August, 2019, the Special Status of Jammu & Kashmir was withdrawn. The Supreme Court has held that our argument is solid and this has been admitted and referred to the Constitution Bench. Here, many of you will agree with me that if some matter is under judicial scrutiny, then we should wait for the Supreme Court. The Government is not only usurping our rights but is also trampling down the Constitution. Rule 205 provides that there will be no debate on the Budget on the day the Budget is presented and the Members of Parliament will be given the opportunity to go through the Budget papers and then form their opinions. They brought a resolution here today that we are suspending Rule 205. We were handed over all these papers at two o'clock and asked to participate in the debate. In a way, we were practically denied the opportunity to discuss it. Various aspects of this Budget may be very good, we will appreciate it, but we were also deprived of that. The decisions of August 5 were marketed and said that Sections 370, 35A are a hindrance. But, now there have been close to 500 encounters. Hundreds of people are still in jails. Three sarpanches were killed this week. They have put more troubles in front of Jammu and Kashmir. Any person who loses his life has the right to be buried in his area, but the Government denied it too. Today, unemployment is close to 20 per cent. A cement factory in Jammu and Kashmir was closed in the year 2019. Even today, its employees are deprived of their salaries.

About 61,000 of our daily wagers, casual workers are sitting on the streets. No arrangements are being made for their regularization. Nearly, 73 per cent of the Budget is being eaten up by the Home Department on security purposes. Less than 30 per cent of the population has access to tap water. All these things which are being denied to Jammu and Kashmir, are being given in the North-Eastern States. The Jammu and Kashmir National Highway, NH-44 remained closed for about a month and a half as there was no traffic. We are part of the country, not out of the country. They have increased the agricultural allocation by Rs.310 crores, that is a very good thing. There should have been more allotment for animal husbandry, fisheries. As far as health and wellness is concerned, there is only one 'PET scan' centre in the whole of Kashmir at the moment. My request is that the government should build a 500-bed special hospital in Dayalgam for South Kashmir, where about 25 lakh people are living. MBBS classes should be started in AIIMS, Avantipura. Regarding tourism and culture, my request is that tourism is our backbone and the allocation in tourism is Rs.604 crores. I think there's a need to increase that further. We are going backwards in the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme, both Urban and Rural. 48,000 houses were to be built, of which only 13,000 houses have been built. There is less allocation in social security and tribal welfare sector. We have about 7-8 cement factories, whose emissions are far above the 'emission level'. Around 2,457 crore rupees has been allocated for power sector. It should also be increased. I think the basic principle is that whatever matter is before the Supreme Court, please don't implement it. A lot of the budget proposals, in which they have made good allocations, deserve appreciation, but their hands are tied. Capital expenditure in tourism is needed because the required capital expansion is not taking place. They are saying that a record number of tourists visited this year. But, these tourists also need infrastructure. Please strengthen that infrastructure. The disabled people are getting a disability pension of Rs 5,000 across the country, but they are getting only one thousand rupees in Kashmir. I request the Government to pay attention to all these things. They have increased allocations for agriculture, water and power sector. There is also a good increase in the housing and urban development sector, but the rest of the sectors need to be looked at. The biggest problem is healthcare. We have to strengthen the diagnostic sector. We produce 10 per cent of saffron. There is a plan for sprinkler irrigation, but there is no order for it. Its caretakers are not getting salaries for three years. Those who gave land for tubewells were promised that they would be given jobs, but that did not happen. They're still waiting. The Government is creating this fake narrative of normalcy. Whatever things we have pointed out, please pay attention to them.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER : The peculiar situation prevailing in Jammu & Kashmir calls for a critical analysis in this august House. They themselves

admit that normalcy is not prevailing there. How can it be corrected? Everybody knows that the day-to-day life of the people of Kashmir has remained in grief. Three former Chief Ministers were under house arrest for months together. It is to be condemned. They are muzzling the press. It is not only in Kashmir; it is everywhere. Many cases have been filed against journalists. Internet was suspended for months together. Communication was cut off. This kind of a thing should not be allowed to continue. The Right to Information Act was brought by the UPA Government at that time. But if an ordinary man in Kashmir asks for a reply from a department, he is denied. I would humbly request the Government to put an end to these kinds of things.

ADV. A.M. ARIFF : We have no doubt that Kashmir is an integral part of our country. But The Government has destroyed everything against the will of the Kashmiri people and against the values of the Constitution. What purpose has the Government achieved by withdrawing the special status and converting it into two Union Territories other than breaching the trust of the people? For the past two-and-a-half years the Government has been saying that the statehood would be restored at an appropriate time, and when normalcy is back. By delaying the restoration of statehood, this Government is betraying the people of Jammu and Kashmir and is acting against their wishes and aspirations.

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UTPAL KUMAR SINGH
Secretary General

** Supplement covering rest of the proceedings is being issued separately.

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LOK SABHA

SUPPLEMENT TO SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES
(Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Monday, March 14, 2022 / Phalgun 23, 1943 (Saka)

THE UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

BUDGET- 2022-23

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS- THE UNION TERRITORY OF
JAMMU AND KASHMIR -2022-23

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS - THE UNION TERRITORY OF
JAMMU AND KASHMIR- 2021-22

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS-
THIRD AND FINAL BATCH-2021-22

And

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS --2018-19

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SHRI B. B. PATIL: During the past two years, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has been marching on the path of development as a result of the Government's initiatives. Jammu and Kashmir's industrial sector requires special packages but the Budget has no roadmap for the industrial sector in Jammu and Kashmir. The Government

** Speeches made by other hon. Members have already been included in the Synopsis (Main).

was expected to announce a waiver on the KCC loans for fruit growers, who are facing acute hardships. The Centre should have come up with a comprehensive economic package and should have given compensation to the orchardists and farmers. The local businesses and trade have reached a critical stage and demand a comprehensive revival package for the whole Union Territory. We expected the measures and schemes which would have fuelled exports and which would have helped in retaining about three lakh strong workforce working in Kashmir's handicraft sector. Jammu and Kashmir currently requires handholding of young entrepreneurs, tax holiday, capital infusion, and amnesty on GST for filing returns. The Government should announce a financial package for Jammu and Kashmir to fuel its economic growth. Steps such as waiving off interest accumulated since August, 2019, interest subvention scheme, fresh capital on low rate of interest, GST holiday, moratorium of two years on fresh loans, reservation in tenders at all-India level to local entrepreneurs, are needed. Concrete steps are expected so that we can see the overall growth in business given the exponentially high unemployment rate, rising poverty, inflation, and failing businesses in Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: People are shedding tears over killing of Kashmiri pandits but 1500 Non-pandits hindus were also killed by militants and no one shed tears for them. I want to request the Government to form an independent commission so that the truth comes out. The Government has said that the process of delimitation of state and Parliamentary constituencies was a transparent process but they have proposed to merge Punchh and Rajouri with Anantnag. After abrogation of Article 370, the Government said that everything will be taken care of but instead of solving problems they are creating more problems. I would like to know from the Finance Minister about the amount of money actually invested therein. On the one hand the Government says that we will privatize LIC and everything on the other hand they are making horticulture a Public Sector Undertaking. The Government has set up JKIDC, which can acquire anybody's land under police protection and no one can challenge acquisition of land in the court also. I also appeal the Government to open Jama Masjid in Kashmir.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: I raised an issue regarding the placement of the Statement of Expenditure and Receipts of Jammu and Kashmir for the financial year 2022-23 and I also raised another technical objection and that is about Demands for Grants for Jammu and Kashmir. There are, in total, Demands starting from serial number 1 to 36, up to Cooperative 'Department' wherein Demand No. 5 is in respect of the Union Territory of Ladakh is missing. Hence it should be re-serialised and corrected. The same is the position with respect to the Appropriation Bill for which I am seeking an

explanation from the hon. Finance Minister. Though, there has been a marginal increase in allocation of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, yet present status of Jammu and Kashmir before abrogation of article 370 and after abrogation of article 370, should be evaluated when we pass the Budget for it. I urge upon the Government to issue a White Paper on it. We would also like to know how much investment has taken place so far in the Valley of Kashmir. Assurances were given by the Government on Jammu and Kashmir's development, especially, infrastructure development, industrial development and tourism sector development, but even after three years, the development as promised by the Government has not taken place for which we are seeking clarifications from the hon. Minister. The real democratic fabric of the State is the Statehood of Jammu and Kashmir which is not materialized yet. The Government is answerable to this question. My suggestion is, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have to be taken into confidence in building the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Statehood has to be declared, the traditional belief and culture have to be protected. Mere economic development and industrial development do not serve the purpose so as to have prosperity of the State as a whole.

SHRI HANUMAN BENIWAL: The current Union Government has done a good job by revoking Articles 370 and 35A relating to Jammu and Kashmir but in the field of developing school infrastructure and betterment of healthcare services more work is needed to be done. A fixed policy is needed to be evolved for providing permanent employment to the youths of Kashmir such as seasonal teachers of Jammu and Kashmir should be employed for 12 months instead of 6 months, they should be given posting to their nearest block and salaries should be increased. The work on Poonch-Loran-sib to Tang marg road is held up due to lack of funds, the attention of the Government is needed in this regard. For protecting the rights of Scheduled Tribes of Jammu and Kashmir, a movement is being run to implement Forest Rights Act, 2006. The state have 12 Scheduled Tribes which includes Gurjar and Bakarwal, out of which almost 50 per cent are nomads. Decreasing pastures year after year are posing threat to their existence. The Jammu and Kashmir land Act, 2001 provides ownership on government land with nominal fee, the Government is needed to look into it.

Today, while holding discussion on Demands for Supplementary Grants, additional expenditure on fertilizer subsidy was mentioned but this year the farmers of many states including Rajasthan are struggling with acute shortage of DAP urea. In the wake of sky rocketing prices of crude oil in international market the Government should take steps to check the price of petrol, diesel and domestic gas.

Funds to the tune of ₹ 4,300 crores are sought for linking rive project in Demands for Supplementary Grants yet Centre is showing no interest in resolving pending inter

state water disputes of Rajasthan. Union Government should intervene on disputes such as unwillingness of Punjab to give its share to Rajasthan as per Ravi-Beas agreement, releasing lesser water of Yamuna to Bharatpur and violation of the decision of Upper Yamuna Board. The Government has sanctioned the Saubhagya scheme worth ₹ 1022.40 crore for the electrification of dwelling units in Rajasthan. Its completion period should be extended to 31 December, 2022 so that all the homes of entire Rajasthan including my constituency would get illuminated.

***DR. D. RAVIKUMAR:** The Government said that abrogation of Article 370 was done with a view to benefitting the people of Jammu and Kashmir. The common man of Kashmir is not getting his basic amenities. People do not enjoy civil rights. Even though this Government says that they are allocating funds to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, there is no detailing of how the funds will be spent. There are some accusations against the Government that the delimitation process is being implemented in Jammu and Kashmir with some political motives and in a biased manner. Therefore, I urge that this Government should come forward to find a solution to the Kashmir issue.

***DR. THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN:** This Government has undone the special category status given to Jammu and Kashmir only to fulfil their dream project of 'One Country', One Culture'. Dividing the State of Jammu and Kashmir into two territories is a huge Himalayan blunder. There is no peace or freedom for the people of that State. I wish to put a demand to the Government that a delegation comprising MPs, particularly from the opposition, should be sent immediately to those Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to assess the situation. A referendum among the people of that area should be held. Let the people say through that referendum that this division of the State is required for the social, economic and industrial development of that area and for providing basic amenities to the people. I urge that the State of Jammu and Kashmir should retain its statehood.

SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE: Article 370 was removed in the year 2019, so that Jammu and Kashmir can be brought into the mainstream and it can head towards development. The work on the Jammu-Srinagar highway, which was started during the UPA regime has not yet been completed. The casual workers are demanding for regularization there. Even today, 30% of the fund, that was given for Panchayati Raj in the year 2021-22, has not been spent yet. 50% of the fund given for urban local body has not been utilized. There is no representation of the Legislative Assembly in the delimitation work which is being carried out here. The work of Eklavya Model School,

* Original in Tamil.

which was to be started during the tenure of UPA has not been completed. Budgetary allocation needs to be increased for the development of Jammu and Kashmir.

SHRI MALOOK NAGAR: If we want to see prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir, we should pay attention to the entire border of Jammu and Kashmir adjoining Pakistan and to the interior areas as well. SEZs needs to be developed for the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, who fight and lay down their lives for the country. The tenure of seasonal teachers should be made one year. The Gujjari language of Gujjars and Bakarwal communities of Jammu and Kashmir, whose population is around 29.4%, should also be recognized. The condition of Jammu and Kashmir will improve if we pay attention towards all these aspects.

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: House boat owners in Kashmir should be given wood etc. so that they can again start their house boat business. The economic zones of handlooms and handicrafts should be benefitted, so that they can flourish again. The expenditure on the central forces is quite high there and the Government of Jammu and Kashmir has requested repeatedly that it cannot bear the burden of this expenditure, so its entire expenditure should be borne by the Central Government. Kashmiri Pandits have left that place. Today, the only minority left there is the Sikh community. In the past, sikhs living there have been attacked several times. If you want them to stay there, then two battalions of the army or paramilitary force should be deputed there, for which a special provision in the budget should be made.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN) *replying said* : First of all, after the removal of Article 370, 890 Central laws have now become applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. What was denied to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for over 70 years, they are getting it now. Bakkarwals and SCs were denied rights for 70 years and removal of Article 370 is the one which gives us now the equipment to be able to serve them. The removal of Article 370 has enabled that which Dr. Ambedkar has given for the rest of the country for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes; it is now available for them. Unjust and discriminatory laws – again, that is very important to bring in parity – were removed. They existed there under Article 370. This country cannot have two symbols, two Prime Ministers and two Constitutions when we have a Constitution which we respect and we revere. If the Constitution given by Dr. Ambedkar is so valuable for the rest of the country, is it not valuable to J&K? There are several Members who asked us this question. But not a voice was raised as to why we are not being allowed to remove article 370 which is not allowing us to adopt the Constitution given by Dr. Ambedkar in J&K? I am grateful that as per the repeated manifesto promise of Bharatiya Janata Party,

we have fulfilled that promise made to the people of this country. It is only after that that Dr. Ambedkar's dream is coming true even to the people of Jammu & Kashmir. Two-hundred-fifty State laws have been repealed; 130 State laws have been modified. For 70 years that parity was not there. Now, a whole lot of financial reforms have also been taking place. I just wanted to also highlight the fact that the larger interest of J&K has been well addressed after the removal of article 370. I will specifically address the issues related to the budget and the budgetary proposals because a lot of hon. Members have raised questions on it. I will particularly start with Shri Manish Tewari who asked about employment, and whether employment figures are improving in J&K or not. As per CMIE, which monitors the Indian economy, at the end of February, unemployment rate which was 22 per cent years ago has come down to 13.2 per cent. . In the last one-and-a-half years, 11,000 appointments have been made in various Government Departments in a fair and transparent manner. Between October 2021 and January, 2022, 50,33,966 is the number of tourists who have reached J&K. During December, 2021 alone. 1.43 lakh tourists visited the Valley alone. That is the highest number in the last seven years. That would not have been possible if the environment was not conducive. Therefore, the impact on hotel occupation and also the tourist operators and everything else is there for all of us to see. There were also questions asked about the investments in J&K. Investment proposals worth Rs. 44,177 crore have already been received. Employment potential from that is 1.80 lakh. Land for the projects worth Rs. 14,000 crore has already been approved. 9,229 projects in 2018-19. In 2021-22, 40,000 projects are being completed. There was this concern -- and it is all right -- about terrorism is still on. However, 229 incidents were reported in the year 2021 as against 244 in 2020. There is a 33 per cent drop in the number of police and security personnel martyred from 63 in 2020 to 42 in 2021. There is a 32 per cent decline in terrorist recruitments. There is a 33 per cent decrease in infiltration. There is a 90 per cent decrease in ceasefire violation. There is a significant difference in the way in which terrorists are being contained and damage is not being allowed because interception is happening at the right time. As regards issue of business loss raised by one of the hon. Member is concerned Rs. 1,353 crore have been given as economic revival package by Prime Minister Modi for J&K post 370 removal, and Rs. 750 crore have already been provided to 3.44 lakh account holders as five per cent interest subvention so that their businesses can be carried forward. We have heard quite a lot of people saying not a significant portion of the Budget is only going to the Home Ministry and so, nothing is reaching the people of J&K. That is not true. Only Rs.10,831 crore, which is almost ten per cent of the total Budget is what has been spent on the Home Ministry and the security-related matters, and not 63 or 73 per cent as was pointed out by many people. The Government of India grant under the MHA to J&K is

Rs.35,581.44 crore for this forthcoming year, 2022-23 as against Rs.30,747 crore in the current year. That is not going for security purposes but that is actually the grant given for activities in the State. The grant which goes for the development of the State. The connectivity in J&K has improved on all fronts based on the status of infrastructure projects and going by the ...of roads constructed under various schemes. On the question much discussed that the revenue expenditure is high, it is because of major Central schemes, pension, power purchase, Ayushman Bharat Sehat scheme, and also interest. All are covered under the revenue budget. Naturally it is going to be high. However, due to various expenditure reforms that have been undertaken, this is gradually coming down. Questions were raised as to what is happening in AMRUT and Smart City projects. The present status is that 64 projects have been completed under AMRUT. Under Smart City Scheme 47 projects were completed before the year 2019 and now 94 have been completed. This question was raised by several hon. Members as to what initiatives were taken in the health sector. Just for Jammu & Kashmir, two AIIMS, seven new medical colleges, two cancer institutes, 15 nursing colleges, Rs.881 crore released under PMDP, and 600 MBBS seats, 68 PG seats, and 140 DNB seats are added newly. Ayushman Bharat has been extended to every citizen Jammu-Kashmir. This question was also raised that there was increased allocation in Health Sector, in view of PMDP and COVID mitigation efforts. More than Rs.300 crore were raised from the World Bank as well. Now, this funding under the PMDP World Bank fund has been stopped. Therefore, you find that under that heading, there is a decrease. Artisan Credit Card facility has been extended with seven per cent interest subvention. There is enhancement of loan slab from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.2 lakh. Seven crafts, including Pashmina and carpet, have been registered under the GI. Earlier, approximately 15 lakh accounts were opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana which has now increased to 25 lakh. DBT is a huge success in J&K. A total amount of Rs.9,487 crore which is a consolidated figure has been disbursed in their account. Rs. 892 crore have been given in the current year. Under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana Rs. 1083 crore have been given to 1.83 lakh farmers.

All Demands for Grants were voted in full.

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL, 2022

The Bill was passed

THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR APPROPRIATION BILL, 2022

The Bill was passed

THE APPROPRIATION (NO. 3) BILL, 2022

The Bill was passed.

THE APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL, 2022

The Bill was passed.

Utpal Kumar Singh
Secretary General

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