

(281-282)

स्थगन प्रस्ताव की सूचनाओं के बारे में विनिर्णय

1203 बजे

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय सदस्यगण, मुझे कुछ विषयों पर स्थगन प्रस्ताव की सूचनाएं प्राप्त हुई हैं। मैंने स्थगन प्रस्ताव की किसी सूचना को अनुमति नहीं दी है।

अधीर जी, आप क्या बोलना चाहते हैं?

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, the number of defaulting and collapsing banks has been increasing with an alarming pace. The people of our country, especially the depositors have been deprived, cheated and flinched by the banks at a regular interval.(Interruptions)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय मंत्री जी जब सदन में आएंगे, तब आप यह विषय उठाइएगा।

...(व्यवधान)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): One after another five banks have collapsed. It is an eloquent testimony of this Government's mismanagement and failure.(Interruptions) आम लोगों का पैसा लूटा जा रहा है।...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय मंत्री जी जब सदन में आएंगे, तब आप यह विषय उठाइएगा।

...(व्यवधान)

श्री अधीर रंजन चौधरी (बहरामपुर): येस बैंक में क्या हुआ है? ...(व्यवधान) सर, सरकार की निगरानी में येस बैंक को लूटा गया।...(व्यवधान) सर, अब कह रहे हैं कि 50 हजार रुपये से ज्यादा की निकासी येस बैंक से नहीं की जा सकती है।...(व्यवधान) ऐसा जुल्म क्यों हो रहा है? ...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : आप नियम के तहत चर्चा मांगें, मैं आपको बोलने का मौका दूंगा।

...(व्यवधान)

श्री अधीर रंजन चौधरी (बहरामपुर): सर, यह एक बड़ा मुद्दा है। आपको हमें बोलने की आज्ञा देनी चाहिए।

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय मंत्री जी, जब सदन में आएंगी तो मैं आपको बोलने का समय दूंगा। अभी मंत्री जी नहीं हैं। मंत्री जी आएंगी, तब मैं आपको बोलने का समय दूंगा। अभी मंत्री जी नहीं हैं।

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : मंत्री जी की मौजूदगी में मैं आपको बोलने का मौका दूंगा।

...(व्यवधान)

सभा पटल पर रखे गए पत्र

1204 बजे

माननीय अध्यक्ष : सभा पटल पर रखे जाने वाले पत्रा श्री किरेन रिजीजू।

...(व्यवधान)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Waqf Properties Lease (Amendment) Rules, 2020 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.126(E) in Gazette of India dated 18th February, 2020 under sub-section (3) of Section 12 of the Waqf Act, 1995.(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R.10(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 3rd January, 2020, notifying the pre-determined rates of premium chargeable for different uses/locations for the years 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20, mentioned therein, under Section 57 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957.

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934:-

(i) The Aircraft (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2018 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.897(E) in Gazette of India dated 20th September, 2018, together with an explanatory note.

(ii) The Aircraft (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2018 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.1089(E) in Gazette of India dated 6th November, 2018, together with an explanatory note.

(3) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.(Interruptions)

जल शक्ति मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री रतन लाल कटारिया): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

1. (एक) नर्मदा नियंत्रण प्राधिकरण, इंदौर के वर्ष 2018-2019 के वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन की एक प्रति (हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी संस्करण) तथा लेखापरीक्षित लेखे।
(दो) नर्मदा नियंत्रण प्राधिकरण, इंदौर के वर्ष 2018-2019 के कार्यकरण की सरकार द्वारा समीक्षा की एक प्रति (हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी संस्करण)।
2. उपर्युक्त (1) में उल्लिखित पत्रों को सभा पटल पर रखने में हुए विलंब के कारण दर्शाने वाला विवरण (हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी संस्करण)।
3. (एक) बेतवा नदी बोर्ड, झांसी के वर्ष 2018-2019 के वार्षिक प्रतिवेदन की एक प्रति (हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी संस्करण) तथा लेखापरीक्षित लेखे।
(दो) बेतवा नदी बोर्ड, झांसी के वर्ष 2018-2019 के कार्यकरण की सरकार द्वारा समीक्षा की एक प्रति (हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी संस्करण)।
4. उपर्युक्त (3) में उल्लिखित पत्रों को सभा पटल पर रखने में हुए विलंब के कारण दर्शाने वाला विवरण (हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी संस्करण)।... (व्यवधान)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRYING AND FISHERIES (SHRI PRATAP CHANDRA SARANGI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises, Mumbai, for the year 2018-2019, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) Statement regarding the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises, Mumbai, for the year 2018-2019.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(1205/SJN/SAN)

सरकारी आश्वासनों संबंधी समिति

पहला और दूसरा प्रतिवेदन

श्री राजेन्द्र अग्रवाल (मेरठ) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित प्रतिवेदन (हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी संस्करण) प्रस्तुत करता हूँ:-

- (1) 'आश्वासनों को छोड़ दिए जाने के अनुरोधों (माने गए)' के बारे में पहला प्रतिवेदन (17वीं लोक सभा)।
- (2) 'आश्वासनों को छोड़ दिए जाने के अनुरोधों (न माने गए)' के बारे में दूसरा प्रतिवेदन (17वीं लोक सभा)।

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

First Report

SHRI KANUMURU RAGHURAMA KRISHNARAJU (NARSAPURAM): Sir, I rise to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation on the Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the 10th Report of the Committee (Sixteenth Lok Sabha).

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

3rd to 5th Reports

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR): Sir, I rise to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy (2019-20):-

- (1) Third Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) relating to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- (2) Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) relating to the Ministry of Power.
- (3) Fifth Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-ninth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2018-19) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Action Taken Statements

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR): Sir, I rise to lay on the Table the following Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy (2019-20):-

- (1) Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter – I of the Thirty-second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Energy on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Twenty-seventh Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- (2) Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter – I of the Thirty-fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Energy on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the Sixteenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

7th to 11th Reports

SHRI JAYANT SINHA (HAZARIBAGH): Sir, I rise to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance:-

- (1) Seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Financial Services and Investment & Public Asset Management).
- (2) Eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).
- (3) Ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- (4) Tenth Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Planning.
- (5) Eleventh Report on Demands for Grants (2020-21) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

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कोयला और इस्पात संबंधी स्थायी समिति

छठा से आठवां प्रतिवेदन

श्री राकेश सिंह (जबलपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं कोयला और इस्पात संबंधी स्थायी समिति के निम्नलिखित प्रतिवेदन (हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी संस्करण) प्रस्तुत करता हूँ:-

- (1) कोयला मंत्रालय से संबंधित 'अनुदानों की मांगों (2020-21)' के बारे में छठा प्रतिवेदन।
- (2) खान मंत्रालय से संबंधित 'अनुदानों की मांगों (2020-21)' के बारे में सातवां प्रतिवेदन।
- (3) इस्पात मंत्रालय से संबंधित 'अनुदानों की मांगों (2020-21)' के बारे में आठवां प्रतिवेदन।

परिवहन, पर्यटन और संस्कृति संबंधी स्थायी समिति

276वां से 279वां प्रतिवेदन

श्री राजीव प्रताप रूडी (सारण) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं परिवहन, पर्यटन और संस्कृति संबंधी स्थायी समिति के निम्नलिखित प्रतिवेदन (हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी संस्करण) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

- (1) नागर विमानन मंत्रालय की अनुदानों की मांगों (2020-21) के बारे में 276वां प्रतिवेदन।
- (2) संस्कृति मंत्रालय की अनुदानों की मांगों (2020-21) के बारे में 277वां प्रतिवेदन।
- (3) सड़क, परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय की अनुदानों की मांगों (2020-21) के बारे में 278वां प्रतिवेदन।
- (4) पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय की अनुदानों की मांगों (2020-21) के बारे में 279वां प्रतिवेदन।

STATEMENT RE: SEEKING EXEMPTION FROM FRAMING OF 2 RULES

UNDER AERA ACT, 2008 - LAID

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): Sir, I rise to lay a statement regarding seeking exemption from framing of 2 rules under AERA Act, 2008 namely AERA (Performance Standards relating to quality, continuity and reliability of service for Major Airports) Rules and Airports Economic Regulatory Authority Appellate Tribunal (AERAAT) (Group A and B Posts) Recruitment Rules.

MAJOR PORT AUTHORITIES BILL

1209 hours

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): Sir, I rise to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation, operation and planning of Major Ports in India and to vest the administration, control and management of such ports upon the Boards of Major Port Authorities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत हुआ:

“कि भारत में महापत्तनों के विनियमन, प्रचालन और योजना के लिए तथा महापत्तन प्राधिकरणों के बोर्डों में ऐसे पत्तनों के प्रशासन, नियंत्रण और प्रबंधन को निहित करने तथा उससे संबद्ध या उसके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने वाले विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाए।”

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Sir, I rise to make an objection under Rule 72 of the Rules of Procedure to the introduction of this Bill on the following four grounds, but the overall ground is that this Bill is not ready for introduction. Far-reaching changes in the management of our ports have been contemplated in the Bill, but the draft is very vaguely and carelessly drafted, and it should be reintroduced after revision.

Sir, I will give you the four reasons right now. The first one is that they have created a 13-member Board to manage ports where the Bill actually provides for seven of these, out of 13, to be from private persons. The majority, in other words, dominating will be of the private persons. The qualification and experiences of the members have not been mentioned in the Bill. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson, who have the power to exercise supervision and control over the acts of all employees of the Major Port Authority are to be appointed on the recommendation of a Selection Committee whose own constitution is unclear. It is not specified in the Bill.

(1210/RBN/GG)

The second objection is over the completely unequal representation of the private interest vis-à-vis the employees' interest. They have got four

independent members representing basically the interest of the business community, and only two representing the employees.

The third objection is that the Bill provides a restriction period of only one year for the Board members to seek re-employment after the tenure of their offices. This is an insufficient safeguard which will promote bias in the discharge of the functions. They can get a job afterwards with the same company that they are regulating.

There is one more omission, which is my fourth objection. The Bill fails to provide a clear demarcation between 'port-related use' and 'non-port related use' giving rise to ambiguity about the lawful use of power.

The Standing Committee had prescribed two separate definitions for these terms. The Bill has not employed either of them.

I would like to stress that ports are a national property. They are meant for public and social benefits. People give up their lands, States give up their lands to construct ports in the larger interest of the prosperity of the country.

This is too important an issue to be dealt with in this cavalier fashion in this hastily-drafted Bill.

I, therefore, object to its introduction. I ask the Government to go back, study the Bill, re-write it and come back with these concerns addressed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Under Rule 72 (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I oppose the introduction of the Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020.

We have been complaining for a long time in this House that this Government seems set and determined to pave the way for privatisation of all Government assets. Earlier we have seen airports being handed over to private parties. We know how private ports are operating in Gujarat, including the Mundra Port operated by Adanis. We have the Kolkata Port, which is 150-years old. The Prime Minister himself went to inaugurate the 150th celebrations.

Now, four people representing industry has been brought in. They will enable the Board to use the property and assets. ...(*Interruptions*) सर, कनफिलिक्ट ऑफ इंटर्रेस्ट है, बिज़नेसमेन को इस बोर्ड में लाया जा रहा है। ...(*व्यवधान*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: माननीय सदस्य, जब इस विषय पर डीटेल्ड चर्चा होगी, आप तब विस्तार से चर्चा करना। अभी आप बिल की अथॉरिटी पर चर्चा करें।...(*व्यवधान*)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): The idea is to lease out the port. ...(*Interruptions*). Already dry docks have been given to private parties.

SHRI HIBI EDEN (ERNAKULAM): I would like to oppose the introduction of the Major Port Authorities Bill, 2020 under Rule 72 (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

This Bill is a continuation of the existing policy of privatisation set in motion by the Union Government, which is accelerating disinvestment of public sector undertakings. The Bill is intended to accord an overarching control to private entities to wrest vital national assets. The Bill questions the established federal structure as overarching powers are granted to the Ports Authorities over the State Governments. When such unregulated powers are provisioned to private sector in the development of critical national infrastructure, there exists a possibility of usurpation of control with scant regard to law. The Bill also includes Cochin Port, which is in my constituency, which faces a major crisis.

So, I would like the Government to withdraw the Bill, re-draft it and re-introduce it. Thank you.

पोत परिवहन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री तथा रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मनसुख एल. मांडविया): अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्यों ने अपनी बात जो इस बिल के संदर्भ में रखी है, उसके संदर्भ में आपको मैं एश्योर करना चाहता हूँ कि पोर्ट का प्राइवेटाइजेशन हम नहीं कर रहे हैं। ...(*व्यवधान*) इस बिल पर तीन साल से कन्सल्टेशन हो रहा था, बाद में स्टैंडिंग कमेटी में गया था। पिछली संसद में यह बिल आया था, लेकिन पिछली संसद की पांच साल की अवधि पूरी हो जाने की वजह से वह लैप्स हो गया तो फिर से आया है। बोर्ड में हम कोई बदलाव नहीं कर रहे हैं। (1215/KN/SM)

ट्रस्टी के नाम की जगह पर हम केवल उसको बोर्ड मैम्बर के रूप में चेंज कर रहे हैं।...(*व्यवधान*) I am telling ...(*Interruptions*) I will clarify all things. दूसरा, उसमें कोई ट्रस्टी, जो लेबर ट्रस्टी है, पहले भी दो लेबर ट्रस्टी थे, आज भी हम दो ही लेबर ट्रस्टी रख रहे हैं। उसमें हमने केवल इतना ही बदलाव किया है कि लेबर के नाम से कई लोग आ जाते थे, वास्तव में वे लेबर नहीं होते थे। हमने क्लेरिफाई किया है कि लेबर का ही रिप्रेजेंटेशन हो और लेबर ही मैम्बर हो। केवल इतना ही चेंज किया है।...(*व्यवधान*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय मंत्री जी, आप बैठे लोगों का जवाब मत दीजिए।

श्री मनसुख एल. मांडविया : सर, पुराने जो बोर्ड थे, हम वैसा ही बोर्ड रख रहे हैं। मैं यह बिल इसलिए ला रहा हूँ, बदलते समय में कई प्राइवेट पोर्ट आए हैं, मेरे पोर्ट के पास कई पावर कम हैं, प्राइवेट पोर्ट के साथ मेरे पोर्ट को कम्पीटिशन करनी पड़ती है, इसलिए हम पावर थोड़ी डेलिगेट कर रहे हैं, बाकी सभी शक्तियाँ भारत सरकार के पास ही रहेंगी। रूल्स एंड रेग्युलेशन भारत सरकार ही बनाएगी।

प्राइवेट लोगों के हित के लिए उसमें कोई जगह नहीं है। Private port is a different thing. यह गवर्नमेंट पोर्ट है। उसकी लेबर के लिए भी जिस दिन लेबर इस पोर्ट में आई है, उस दिन जो रूल्स एंड रेग्युलेशन है, उसको ही हम फॉलो कर रहे हैं। लेबर के प्रति भी कोई नेगेटिव इफेक्ट नहीं होगा। कोई लेबर पेंशनर है, उसके ऊपर भी कोई नेगेटिव इफेक्ट नहीं होगा। सभी चीज है, केवल इस पोर्ट अथॉरिटी बिल के माध्यम से हम पोर्ट को थोड़ी सी शक्ति दे रहे हैं, ताकि वह समय के अनुसार कम्पीटिशन करके आगे बढ़ सके।

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय सदस्यगण, मैं नियम 72 की व्याख्या जरूर कर देता हूँ, ताकि सभी माननीय सदस्यों को ध्यान रहे। वैसे तो जो माननीय सदस्य नियम 72 के विषय उठाते हैं, वे सब विद्वान माननीय सदस्य हैं, लेकिन सदन को विषय ध्यान में रहे, जैसा कि नियम 72 की भाषा से स्पष्ट है-

किसी विधेयक के पुरःस्थापन के प्रस्ताव का विरोध, न केवल इस आधार पर कि विधेयक ऐसे विधान का सूत्रपात करता है, जो सभा की विधायनी क्षमता से परे है, बल्कि अन्य आधारों पर भी किया जा सकता है।

...(व्यवधान)

प्रो. सौगत राय (दमदम): यह गलत इंटरप्रिटेशन है।...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : एक मिनट। अगर आसन गलत प्लेस कर रहा है, तो इस पर अभी डिबेट कर लेंगे। मैं विषय पूरा पढ़ लूँ।

...(व्यवधान)

प्रो. सौगत राय (दमदम): आप फिर से रिपीट कीजिए।...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : जैसा कि नियम 72 की भाषा से स्पष्ट है-

“यदि किसी विधेयक के पुरःस्थापन के प्रस्ताव का विरोध, न केवल इस आधार पर कि विधेयक ऐसे विधान का सूत्रपात करता है, जो सभा की विधायनी क्षमता से परे है, बल्कि अन्य आधारों पर भी किया जा सकता है। जहाँ पुरःस्थापन के प्रस्ताव का विरोध विधायनी क्षमता से भिन्न आधारों पर किया जाता है, पुरःस्थापन का विरोध कर रहे सदस्य को एक अत्यंत संक्षिप्त वक्तव्य देना होता है।”

नियम 72, उप नियम 1 का पहला परन्तु स्पष्ट वर्णित करता है-

“यदि विधेयक के पुरःस्थापन का विरोध इस आधार पर किया जाता है कि विधेयक की विषय-वस्तु इस सभा की विधायनी क्षमता से परे है, तो अध्यक्ष द्वारा अन्य सदस्यों को विधेयक के उपबंधों पर अपने मत रखने की अनुमति दी जाती है।”

यह मेरी आज्ञा से ही आपको अनुमति मिली है।

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, I fully agree with the ruling of the hon. Speaker. Absolutely, it is the freedom and authority of the hon. Speaker whether right to oppose is permitted, that means, whether observation can be made. That is also there. It is absolutely within the purview of the hon. Speaker to permit to make a brief statement. That is under rule 72(1). The first proviso deals with that.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : मुझे भी अच्छा लगता है, जब सदन में विधायी कार्य पर एक सारगर्भित चर्चा होती है और होनी भी चाहिए। इसलिए उन माननीय सदस्यों को मैं धन्यवाद देता हूँ, जो समय-समय पर इन विषयों पर चर्चा करते हैं। मैं उसके लिए हमेशा कोशिश करता हूँ कि उनको सम्पूर्ण मौका दिया जाए, क्योंकि कानून देश के लिए बन रहे हैं।

(1220/CS/AK)

संसद में विधायी कानून बनाने के लिए हम सब लोग यहाँ चुनकर आए हैं। कानून देश के हित में बने, इसके लिए चर्चा, संवाद, वाद-विवाद होना चाहिए, सहमति-असहमति भी होनी चाहिए, लेकिन चर्चा का पूर्ण मौका दिया जाना चाहिए, जो मैं हमेशा आप लोगों को देता हूँ।

प्रश्न यह है :

“कि भारत के महापत्तनों के विनियमन, प्रचालन और योजना के लिए तथा महापत्तन प्राधिकरणों के बोर्डों में ऐसे पत्तनों के प्रशासन, नियंत्रण और प्रबंधन को निहित करने तथा उससे संबद्ध या उसके आनुषंगिक विषयों का उपबंध करने वाले विधेयक को पुरःस्थापित करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाए।”

प्रस्ताव स्वीकृत हुआ।

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

श्री अधीर रंजन चौधरी (बहरामपुर): सर, मैं एक छोटा सा विषय उठाना चाहता हूँ...(व्यवधान)
सर, आप जानते हैं, सारा सदन जानता है कि हिन्दुस्तान में यस बैंक को लेकर लाखों की तादाद में लोग परेशानियों से गुजर रहे हैं...(व्यवधान)

सर, आम लोगों का पैसा लूटा जाता है और वह भी सरकार की निगरानी में...(व्यवधान)
संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा भारी उद्योग और लोक उद्यम मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अर्जुन राम मेघवाल): अध्यक्ष जी...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय सदस्य, मैंने आपसे आग्रह किया है
...(व्यवधान)

श्री अधीर रंजन चौधरी (बहरामपुर): सर, एक के बाद एक प्राइवेट बैंक, कंपनी ध्वस्त हो रही हैं...(व्यवधान) लोगों को अभी कहा जा रहा है कि अभी आप 50 हजार रुपये से ज्यादा निकास नहीं कर सकते हैं...(व्यवधान) लोगों का पैसा लूटा जाता है और फिर लोगों को कहा जाता है कि इसकी भरपाई तुम करो...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय सदस्य, आपको मैंने कहा है कि माननीय मंत्री जी की उपस्थिति में आप इसे उठाएं। नो-नो।

...(व्यवधान)

श्री अधीर रंजन चौधरी (बहरामपुर): लोगों का पैसा लूटा जाता है और फिर लोगों को कहा जाता है कि तुम इसकी भरपाई करो...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी।

...(व्यवधान)

श्री अधीर रंजन चौधरी (बहरामपुर): इसलिए एसबीआई इनको पैसा देने के लिए बेल आउट पैकेज बना रहा है...(व्यवधान) ये सरासर हमारे बैंक के पैसे को बर्बाद कर रहे हैं...(व्यवधान) पहले नो योर कस्टमर चलता था, अभी नो योर...(व्यवधान)

**STATEMENT RE: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS PERTAINING TO INDIANS
STRANDED IN IRAN AS A RESULT OF CORONA VIRUS**

1222 hours

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, ...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय मंत्री जी का महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर स्टेटमेंट हो रहा है। आप उसे सुनिए।
...(व्यवधान)

DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR: Sir, I rise to apprise this august House of some recent developments pertaining to Indians stranded in Iran as a result of the Corona virus situation. ...(*Interruptions*) Before I come to the Iran situation, kindly allow me to describe the larger global landscape with respect to Corona virus and our approach in responding to this challenge.

As all hon. Members are aware, the global spread of Corona virus is now real and serious. Yesterday, the WHO declared it as a pandemic. As a country whose citizens are spread across the world, this is a matter of utmost concern. At the same time, it is absolutely essential that we react responsibly and soberly. What we say and what we do should address problems, not spread panic. It is natural that there would be situations of different degrees of gravity in different parts of the world. As a Government, we will assess these in terms of their urgency and seriousness, and respond accordingly.

As the House would have noted, where specific interventions are required -- as in the case of Wuhan in China, the Diamond Princess crew in Japan or now the pilgrims in Iran -- we will take necessary action. But these are exceptional situations that require exceptional response. At this time, travel in itself is not recommended as it only heightens risks. Where communities are understandably anxious, we should reassure them and encourage the observance of globally recognized precautions and procedures. An excessive sense of alarm would only be to the detriment of those who are really in need.

Let me now turn to the issue of Iran. As per available information, there are above 6,000 Indian nationals in various provinces of Iran. These include 1,100 pilgrims mainly from the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir, and the State of Maharashtra; nearly 300 students primarily from the

Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir; about 1,000 fishermen from the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Gujarat; and others who are on longer-term stay visas in Iran for pursuing their livelihood and religious studies.

As the Government started receiving information about the spike in Corona virus cases in Iran, as a precautionary measure, direct flights between India and Iran were temporarily suspended with effect from 27 February. Advisories were issued to avoid travel and returning passengers were started to be screened. This is an ongoing exercise.

Our Embassy in Tehran and Consulates in Bandar Abbas and Zahidan are naturally reaching out immediately to Indian nationals in Iran and ascertaining their welfare.

(1225/SPR/MY)

An advisory was issued asking our nationals to observe appropriate precautions. Emergency contact details of the Indian Mission were put out. Embassy and Consulate officials have been reassuring the Indian nationals and ensuring that they are in good health and had adequate provisions. I mention this as an overall approach but also with specific reference to the fishermen community whose welfare has been raised with me by a number of hon. Members.

Given the large number of Indians in Iran, it was natural that we should seek to sequence their return, taking into account their location and exposure. The initial focus is on visiting pilgrims. Many of them are in Qom, where Coronavirus incidence has been strong. The nature of residency also increases the risks of exposure. Age is also a factor to be taken into account. As their welfare is being currently addressed, we are now focusing on Indian students. Many of them are studying medicine and are fully aware of the precautions to be taken in this difficult situation. The Embassy is in regular contact with them as a group. Our understanding is that the region where most fishermen are located has not been affected so severely. These factors will guide our approach in the coming days.

Over the last few days, the Government has been making focused efforts for the safe return of the stranded Indians. Given the

scale of COVID-19 and its pressure on Iran's own resources, a team of six Indian health officials has been deputed to Iran in order to set up testing and sampling facilities there. The first batch of 108 samples were received in India on 7 March. These were tested and 58 Indian pilgrims (25 men, 31 women and two children), who tested negative, were repatriated in IAF C-17 special flight on 10 March. We have also received samples of 529 more Indians on this flight which have been tested in National Institute of Virology, Pune. So far, 299 of them have tested negative. Some more results are awaited. We continue to collect more samples in Tehran and our endeavor is to ensure the earliest possible return of our nationals after appropriate testing and screening. We are working with the Iranian authorities to operate some limited commercial flights to facilitate early return. Our Embassy, with cooperation of the Iranian authorities is making arrangements for medical care and monitoring of those who have tested positive.

Our Embassy staff and the medical team are working round-the-clock under difficult conditions to ensure the objective of earliest possible return. The House will appreciate their operational constraints, given that there have been restrictions that have been instituted for public health reasons in Iran. It is not easy to organize transport, accommodation and other logistics. The Iranian system is very stretched but we do appreciate their cooperation in these difficult circumstances.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I visited Srinagar recently. I took the initiative to meet parents of some of the students who are in Iran. Their anxiety at this time is completely understandable. I shared with them in detail the ground situation and sought their understanding. I assured them that Government would facilitate the earliest possible return of their children. I would like to share with the House that the sampling of these students has begun today.

Our Consulate in Bandar Abbas are in touch with the Indian fishermen, who are in southern provinces of Iran, including in cities of Asaalouyeh, Chiruyeh and Kish. Some of them have been

visited and others would be soon. Provision of essential supplies to them is being ensured. As per available information, of them are all in good health. I assure the House that we will continuously track their welfare and respond to their needs.

The House will surely appreciate the few other Nations have done what we have with respect to the COVID-19. The global Coronavirus situation is being monitored on a continuous basis by a Group of Secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary and a Group of Ministers, headed by the Minister of Health and Family Welfare. My Ministerial colleague has already apprised the House of measures being taken to control and contain the spread of virus within the country. The Prime Minister himself has reviewed the situation from time to time. We have been regularly issuing travel advisories and visa guidelines that reflect the situation in countries of concern.

(1230/UB/CP)

In many respects, India has been ahead of the curve in taking precautionary measures.

Sir, the House should also be aware that in view of the further spread of Coronavirus, the Government decided yesterday to take more stringent measures in regard to international travel. The reason for this is obvious. All the cases so far have come directly from those who have a travel history. In doing so, we are very clear that we will do whatever we must to ensure that the spread of Coronavirus is restricted and that the health security of India is ensured.

Let me spell out some of the measures that the Group of Ministers at a meeting yesterday approved. They will come into effect at 12:00 GMT on 13th March at the port of departure. These measures include: one, all existing visas, except diplomatic, official, UN and International Organisations, employment, project visas, stand suspended till 15th April, 2020; two, visa free travel facility granted to OCI card holders has also been kept in abeyance till 15th April, 2020; and three, all incoming travellers, including Indian nationals, arriving from or having visited China, Italy, Iran, Republic of Korea, France, Spain and Germany after 15th February shall be quarantined for a minimum period of 14 days. It was also decided that any foreign national who intends to travel to India for

compelling reasons may contact the nearest Indian Mission. Indian nationals are strongly advised to avoid all non-essential travel abroad. On their return, they can be subjected to quarantine for a minimum of 14 days. International traffic through land borders will be restricted to designated checkpoints with robust screening facilities. These will be notified separately by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Sir, the situation in Italy is now emerging as a cause of great concern. I would like to share with the hon. Members that steps in this regard have already been initiated. It has been decided to make provision for testing primarily for students and compassionate cases in Italy and collect samples for testing. A medical team is being sent there from India. Those tested negative will be allowed to travel and will be quarantined on arrival in India for 14 days. The challenge is growing by the day in Europe and we will respond accordingly. We have appointed in the Ministry of External Affairs a senior official to coordinate our Coronavirus response internationally. A nodal office is being established to speedily process requests for assistance that are naturally expected to increase from different parts of the world. There will be some pressing or some unusual situations and we recognise that and we will respond to that. The details of the nodal office will be made available very soon.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am confident that the hon. Members of this House will join me in commending the efforts of our medical teams, the officials of the Indian Embassy and Consulates, the Air Force crew, the Air India crew and all those who in India are working tirelessly and selflessly to ensure that our people in Iran and other countries are safe, and can return expeditiously. The Coronavirus challenge will require a focused and sustained effort on our part and we will keep the House apprised of developments.

Finally, I would like to strongly emphasise that the Government remains fully committed towards the welfare of our nationals in any part of the world as well as ensuring the security and safety of our homeland. This has been the hallmark of our foreign policy.

(ends)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : एक मिनट, विराजिये।

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : बालू जी, एक सेकेंड, मैं परमीशन दे रहा हूँ।

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष : माननीय सदस्यगण, मंत्री जी की स्टेटमेंट पर तो चर्चा हो नहीं सकती, लेकिन शून्य काल में आपका जो महत्वपूर्ण सुझाव हो, इसके लिए मैं आपको आमंत्रित करता हूँ।

श्री बालू जी।

(1235/KMR/NK)

SHRI T. R. BAALU (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Sir, I appreciate fully the efforts made by the hon. External Affairs Minister of our country. Sometime back, a representation made by the parents of Kanyakumari fishermen had been forwarded to the hon. Minister of External Affairs as well as the hon. Prime Minister by my leader Dr. M.K. Stalin. I want to know the response of the hon. Minister to this. Are the fishermen from Kanyakumari in deep South and Thoothukudi safe? What are the arrangements that are being made by the Government to deport all these people? ...(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: माननीय मंत्री जी, ये शून्यकाल है, इसका एक साथ जवाब दे देना।

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: माननीय मंत्री जी सभी माननीय सदस्यों का नाम लिख रहे हैं, एक-एक करके जवाब देंगे। सिंगल-सिंगल इश्यू का आंसर देंगे। स्टालिन जी ने कहा है, लेकिन यहां पार्लियामेंट में आप कह रहे हैं। यहां स्टालिन जी नहीं कह रहे हैं, यहां आप कह रहे हैं। सभी का जवाब देंगे। सिंगल-सिंगल मेंबर का सिंगल-सिंगल जवाब देंगे।

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: माननीय मंत्री जी जवाब देने के लिए रेडी हैं।

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: श्री बी. मणिकम टैगोर को श्री टी.आर. बालू द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): Hon. Speaker, Sir, as we all know, the novel corona virus has affected over 100,000 victims around the globe as of today and has terrified the entire world, especially so, after Covid-19 has officially been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation last night. The Director General of WHO has said in his statement, 'Pandemic is not a word to use lightly or carelessly'. Currently in India there are 58 active cases out of which 14 are from Kerala. Out of those 14, 11 cases are reported from my Constituency Pathanamthitta. I strongly believe that these cases could have been avoided. The three passengers who came from Italy on 29th February were

allowed to go without screening because there was not testing facility at Cochin airport. That has led to a wild chase for thousands of primary and secondary contacts. It was only after 3rd March that stringent screening measures were ordered. As of today in Kerala, over 250 people are hospitalised, 1,495 are under observation, and 900 people are under home observation. Naturally, after the news of the outbreak came out, the social life has not just halted but has ceased to exist in my Constituency. *(Interruptions)* Sir, there is a severe shortage of masks and sanitisers. Prices of these commodities have shot through the roof following an unforeseen demand. ...*(Interruptions)* I urge upon the Government to bring these products under Essential Commodities Act so as to control their prices. ...*(Interruptions)* I would urge upon the Central Government to provide the State of Kerala all possible assistance medically and financially to overcome this horrible reality and contain any further spread.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Hon. Speaker, Sir, the House fully appreciates the steps taken by the Ministry as well as our Missions abroad in order to prevent to prevent the spread of novel corona virus. The hon. Minister has stated that stringent measures have already been taken so as to have screening tests at the airports. However, it is quite unfortunate, as rightly said by Shri Anto Antony, that three persons of a family had come to India and there was no screening or testing done. That is why the entire Kerala is now in a panic situation. The universities are closed and the colleges are closed. The Government has taken precautionary measures. However, there are many Overseas Citizens of Indian Origin stranded at the airports. What would be the fate of those passengers who are stranded at the airports? Every day, we are getting telephone calls from the passengers who have already obtained tickets and are at the airports. The only country which is imposing a total ban is India. What would be the fate of those passengers who are stranded at various airports? They are helpless. They are calling us for help. Would the Minister please clarify that point also?

(1240/SNT/SK)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): Sir, I appreciate the steps so far taken by the Government of India, the Health Ministry and the External Affairs Ministry.

Today's headline says, 'India quarantines itself'. That means no new visas will be allowed excepting for United Nations and other such designated officials.

The Government has taken steps earlier to send a plane to Wuhan in China. Then, 58 Indians have been evacuated from Iran, 83 people have arrived at Delhi from Italy and our medical team is being sent to Italy.

My question is simply this. There are five countries which are designated. All incoming travellers including Indian nationals arriving for or having visited China, Italy, Iran, Republic of Korea, France, Spain and Germany shall be quarantined. We have got information about China, Iran, and Italy. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the position with regard to Republic of Korea. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would like to know the position with regard to Republic of Korea, France, Spain and Germany. How many Indians are there? Do they want to come back? What are the steps the Government is taking with regard to them? **श्री हसनैन मसूदी (अनन्तनाग):** सर, जहां तक जम्मू-कश्मीर के तुलवाका और वहां के जायरीन का मामला है, सरकार का रवैया लाताल्लुकी का रहा है। It has been an attitude of apathy and indifference. आज से तीन हफ्ते पहले मैं मंत्री जी के नोटिस में लाया कि लोगों की ऐसी पीड़ा है, बच्चे छोटे हैं, जो बीस साल से कम उम्र के हैं या 20 साल के एराउंड हैं, उनको यहां लाने का प्रयास किया जाए। तब से आज तक कुछ नहीं किया गया, सिर्फ एक जहाज आया है। मैं चाहता हूं कि मंत्री जी कहें और टाइम फ्रेम दें। Let him step into the shoes of the parents of those students. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): Sir, as was mentioned by Shri Anto Antony, 14 cases have been identified in Kerala out of which, three are from my constituency and they are just five kilometres away from my house.

I would request the Government to take immediate steps for their recovery and make necessary arrangements. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): Sir, there are hundreds of people stranded at the airports. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister, through you that from my constituency, 11 people are stuck in Mashhad in Iran and the Indian Embassy is telling them to come to Tehran. They cannot come.

My request to the hon. Minister is to ensure that they come to Tehran and bring them back. They are all pilgrims. Will you also add United States to the list

of affected countries because a large number of virus cases are coming up in US?

SHRI HIBI EDEN (ERNAKULAM): Sir, Kerala has been badly affected as everybody knows. My request to the Government of India is criminal cases should be registered against people who are not cooperating with the health authorities, who are spreading panic in the social media.

Also, there are lack of virology institutes in India, especially southern part of India. Kerala should be given testing centres and virology institutes. Biosafety cabinet and PCR machines should be provided by the ICMR.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, I appreciate the steps the External Affairs Ministry and the Minister personally has taken. The whole House appreciates the steps that our Embassy have been taking throughout the world. My concern here is this. As I had said on the earlier occasion, it is an international crisis and I had also appreciated the steps the Health Minister has taken during this crisis.

The two things that actually crop up before us is, the number of virology centres where testing needs to be done needs to be enhanced. We have only two centres, one in Kolkata and one in Pune. Now, as for instance, we have one regional medical research centre in Bhubaneswar, which is also testing. But as we have large number of AIIMS institutes throughout the country, they should also try to have this type of testing.

(1245/MK/GM)

As far as international flights are concerned, Air Asia has an international flight which flies from Bhubaneswar international airport to Malaysia. But adequate screening facilities has not been available in these airports. There is one more concern which I would like to raise here. How are we going to trace those people who have travelled by international flights into India during last two weeks? Whom have they contacted? This is very much necessary. It is not that we quarantine the country today and stop at that. We need to take care of those people also who have already come back to our country.

SHRI H. VASANTHAKUMAR (KANNIYAKUMARI): Sir, nearly 700 fishermen from Tamil Nadu are stranded in Iran and three or four islands. So far, they have been provided food and other things, but since yesterday, they were told that

they have to go mid-sea and stay there. They are no longer allowed to stay in their place. They are very much scared.

श्री भगवंत मान (संगरूर): अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी बैठे हैं। इटली के एयरपोर्ट पर, चूंकि कोरोना वायरस की वजह से पूरा कंट्री लॉकडाउन हो गया है, 30 भारतीय स्टूडेंट्स हैं, जिनमें ज्यादातर पंजाब के हैं। एयरपोर्ट टोटली बंद हो गए हैं, अब उनको खाने-पीने के लिए चिंता हो रही है। 30 भारतीय स्टूडेंट्स इटली के रोम एयरपोर्ट पर फंसे हुए हैं, उनको वापस लाने के लिए कदम उठाये जाएं।

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI (THOOTHUKKUDI): Firstly, I would like to thank the hon. Minister for his statement. He has been responding to all our queries and he has been very helpful that way. He mentioned in his statement about a 14-day quarantine of people who have come to India. Where is the Government going to quarantine them? We know that there are Indians working all over the world and students studying in different parts of the world who have not been affected by coronavirus. Will the Minister provide a helpline number which students and people working in different countries can contact for some kind of help if they need?

माननीय अध्यक्ष: कांग्रेस के सभी माननीय सदस्यों की ओर से मैं अधीर रंजन जी को बुलाता हूँ। ये सदन के नेता हैं। आपके नेता बोल रहे हैं।

...(व्यवधान)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): I must appreciate the endeavour taken by the hon. Minister in his own capacity and on behalf of the Government in order to stem the rot so far as coronavirus is concerned. The coronavirus has already assumed a pandemic proportion much to the consternation of all of us. So, now we have to think and act globally. हमारे बंगाल में, खासकर हमारे डिस्ट्रिक्ट के लाखों लोग सऊदी अरब, वेस्ट एशिया में रहते हैं। वे सारे गरीब लोग हैं। वे उतने पढ़े-लिखे नहीं होते हैं। सऊदी अरब से एक आदमी हमारे डिस्ट्रिक्ट में आया था। आने के बाद उसको बुखार हुआ और उसकी मौत हो गई। इससे सारे डिस्ट्रिक्ट में अफरा-तफरी पैदा हो गई। जो बाहर हैं, खासकर सऊदी अरब और अन्य जगह, जहां लेबर लोग ज्यादा जाते हैं, ये लोग पुअर और इलिटरेट होते हैं, उन लोगों की जानकारी के लिए आप एक हेल्पलाइन खोलिए और एक साथ स्वास्थ्य मंत्री और विदेश मंत्री there should be a concerted effort by the two concerned Ministries.

श्री जयंत सिन्हा (हजारीबाग): अध्यक्ष महोदय, सर्वप्रथम मैं माननीय विदेश मंत्री जी, माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी और पूरी सरकार को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ, आभार व्यक्त करना चाहता हूँ, क्योंकि

उन्होंने जिस तरीके से और जितनी स्फूर्ति से इस महान संकट को संभाला है, उसके लिए वे धन्यवाद के पात्र हैं। यह एक अकल्पनीय संकट है। पूरी दुनिया में ऐसा पैडेमिक पहले कई दशकों से नहीं आया है। इसे हमें संभालने की जरूरत है। हमें बिल्कुल ठंडी सोच और ठोस कदम उठाकर इसका सामना करना पड़ेगा। आप देखें कि हर बिन्दु पर सरकार ने रिस्पांड किया है या नहीं किया है, आप सभी माननीय सदस्यों को इसमें संतोष होना चाहिए कि चाहे वह बार्डर सीलिंग का मामला हो, कैपेसिटी बिल्डिंग का मामला, प्रचार का मामला हो या सम्पर्क का मामला हो, हर विषय पर सरकार ने ठोस कदम उठाए हैं। ... (व्यवधान) हमें उन्हें पूरी तरीके से समर्थन और सहयोग देना चाहिए, जिससे हम लोग इस महान संकट से बाहर निकल सकें।

(1250/RSG/YSH)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: सभी माननीय सदस्यों ने सरकार के प्रयासों की सराहना की है। यहां पर जो भी माननीय सदस्य चर्चा पर बोलने के लिए खड़े हुए हैं, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से आग्रह करूंगा कि उन्हें व्यक्तिगत रूप से बुलाकर उनसे चर्चा कर लें, उनसे उनके अमूल्य सुझाव ले लें, क्योंकि आपको यहां पर देश की 130 करोड़ जनता के प्रतिनिधियों के सुझाव मिलेंगे तो इससे सरकार और अच्छे प्रयास कर पाएगी। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR: Sir, let me briefly respond to the observations made by various hon. Members.

Let me start with Shri T.R. Baalu's question about fishermen in Iran and the arrangements which are made for them. At this moment, I want to assure you, we have no coronavirus cases among any of the fishermen but they have difficulty in getting food and other things. Our Consulate is in touch with them and will continue to be in touch with them. We are monitoring the situation and we are setting up a nodal centre to check their welfare and the welfare of the other people.

Shri Antony raised the issue of no screening at Kochi. That is not my understanding. My understanding is that there was screening instituted at all international airports. We have tightened it since then and I can assure you on behalf of the Group of Ministers that this is something which is very much on our agenda.

Shri Premachandran again raised the issue of tests. He also referred to people who are stranded at airports. I want to assure you that we are today helping the people who are stranded at airports. We are preventing a sense of panic. I also want to clarify that India has not imposed a ban. India has said that if people from certain countries who are coming here, they have to go through quarantine – in certain cases compulsory quarantine and in some cases

discretionary quarantine – and Indian citizens who are coming back will obviously come back to quarantine conditions if that is required.

Prof. Saugata Ray raised the issue again saying we are not issuing new visas. What we have done is this. We have kept in abeyance certain categories of visas for certain countries where there is prevalence of coronavirus. Ours is not the only country that has done that. There are a lot of other countries that have also done that. We were among the earliest to do it. He asked what was happening in Korea, France, Spain and Germany. We have not seen the kind of crisis situation that we have seen in Wuhan or we are seeing in Iran or we are seeing in Italy. So, we have to prioritise. We have to see where the problem is more severe and what kind of people are affected. For example, pilgrims are affected because they live in conditions where the spread of disease is very possible; students are affected because the dormitories are closed. We have to see where we should give the attention and where the resources should be given. I think, they would understand it. I would urge all the hon. Members to understand it as well.

Shri Hasnain Masoodi raised an issue about our response time in Iran. I would like to share, through you, with the hon. Members that there has been a very difficult situation in Iran because their own system is under severe pressure, hospitals are under pressure, and testing facilities are not available. We first tried to get everybody help in Iran. When we realised that this was not happening, we were required to send our medical team. We had to actually establish a clinic at Qom. We had to shift even that to Tehran and ask the people to go from Qom to Tehran because that was the compulsion on us there. So, there has been no lack of sensitivity to the situation of people but please understand that it is a very difficult situation in Iran and we are working on it. Fifty-eight people have come back. I expect, maybe, another more than 200 would come back soon and the numbers will keep increasing.

Shri Thomas Chazhikadan again raised the issue of airports, to which I have replied.

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi raised the issue of people who are stuck at Mashal. At the moment, we have one medical team operating at Tehran.

(1255/RK/RPS)

We are asking people to come to Tehran for testing. If there is a problem, we will find a way of reaching people in Mashhad. We will not leave them out there. I can give you that assurance.

Shri Hibi Eden ji raised an issue of virology testing centres. Dr. Harsh Vardhan ji is here. In due course, he will reply to that. Let me finish my list. We are setting up more laboratories for testing. The number of such laboratories has increased, but I would like my colleague to answer that question.

Shri Mehtab ji also asked the same question about the testing centres. He will answer that question.

The issue regarding tracking those who are coming in, is a very valid issue. I would like to assure the Members that there is a very very detailed tracking procedure. In fact, the Group of Ministers has seen every patient who was tested positive and has tracked hundreds of people who have been in contact with that patient. It is not that we are only quarantining. There is a very very detailed tracking procedure in place and it is because of that we have been able to keep it to the limit that we have.

Vasanthakumar ji raised an issue of fishermen who are in the island. I would like to assure him that we will make sure that they are looked after. We are regularly in touch with them. Therefore, the provisions will be made.

Bhagwant Mann ji raised the issue of 30 students of Punjab who got stuck at the Italy airport. I know that the hon. Member is concerned about students from his region. I would like to tell him that there are not 30 students but there are many more students from different parts of the country. For me, I need to find a way of helping or bringing all of them back. We are at it. Please understand, we can only bring them back if they are tested. They have to be tested and to test them, we have started the sampling today. We cannot bring back untested people in very severe epidemic situation because I have the security of this country to worry about as well.

Kanomozhi ji asked about setting up a helpline and where will we quarantine. We will be setting up a helpline. We have identified a large number of possible quarantine centres. Till now, most of the quarantine is taking place in Manesar and close by, but if the quarantine numbers mount, we have already initiated an exercise in cooperation with different Ministries and State

Governments. We have a much bigger contingency plan for quarantining. I think, Dr. Harsh Vardhan ji would be in a better position to reply to it.

Finally, with regard to Adhir Ranjan ji's issue about Saudi Arabia, I would like to say that we are very very sensitive to what is happening, particularly with our people who are working in very difficult conditions in the Gulf. So far, in the Gulf the cases have been very limited but we are very much on the alert because we totally share Member's concern that if the situation becomes worse there, they will have to be a priority area. So, it is very much on our radar. I would request my colleague to reply on other issues.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): A number of pregnant women are waiting at the airports....(*Interruptions*)

माननीय अध्यक्ष: श्री जसबीर सिंह (डिम्पा) गिल, आप एक मिनट बोल लें।

श्री जसबीर सिंह (डिम्पा) गिल (खडूर साहिब): अध्यक्ष जी, पंजाब के काफी लोग इटली, जर्मनी और यूरोप के अन्य हिस्सों में रहते हैं और ज्यादातर फार्मों में काम करते हैं। उनमें से बहुत से लोग ऐसे हैं जो इल्लिगल माइग्रेट्स हैं। मैं यही बात बताना चाहता था। उस डर की वजह से वे सरकारी हॉस्पिटल में नहीं जा सकते हैं। अगर उनमें से किसी को प्रॉब्लम होती है, क्या मंत्री जी यह बताएंगे कि उनको क्या करना चाहिए, कहां जाना चाहिए, ताकि वे बच सकें?

SHRI MANISH TEWARI (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. We understand the seriousness of the situation. I would just like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, through you, that the Government has advised the States to invoke the Epidemic Diseases Act of 1897. This is a 120 years old Act, which is a four Section Act and which does not even define what an epidemic is.

(1300/PS/IND)

My question is this. Is the legal architecture appropriate to deal with a pandemic of this kind? Is the Government contemplating to bring in some kind of an Ordinance in order to beef up the legal architecture because I do not think that the legal architecture is adequate to deal with the situation which is evolving?