

PREFACE

The ‘FOCUS’ is published by the Kerala Legislature Secretariat for the use of the members of the Kerala Legislative Assembly. It is a digest containing articles and excerpts from books on subjects of current intellectual, political, social and cultural interest, news, reports of the commissions and committees and reviews of books. The views expressed therein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Kerala Legislature Secretariat.

Materials reproduced from other sources may not be republished in any form. Inquiries regarding permission for publication may be addressed directly to the sources cited.

**P. D. SARANGADHARAN,
SECRETARY,
KERALA LEGISLATURE.**

CONTENTS

VOL. XLV	FEBRUARY 2015	No.02
	ARTICLES	<i>page</i>
S.M. Menon	Beyond Mandal [Frontline, February 6, 2015]	1-5
T. Thamizhvanan & K. Balaguru	The Economic Impact of Black Money [Kissan World, February 2015]	6-12
വൈ.കെ. ദിവേദി, നൂപേന്ദ്ര പി. റാണ, അന്റോണീസ് സി. സിമിൻതിരാസ്, ബിനിതാ ലാൽ	ഡിജിറ്റൽ ഇന്ത്യാ പരിപാടി - പൊതുഭരണ പരിഷ്കരണത്തിനുള്ള മഹത്തായ ഉദ്യമം [യോജന, ഫെബ്രുവരി 2015]	13-21
Julie .P. Lazar	Development versus Environment - A Case of India [Southern Economist, February 1, 2015]	22-30
	BOOK REVIEW	
I. Satya Sundaram	Urban Informal Sector : The Challenges [Southern Economist, February 1, 2015]	31-32
	BUSINESS OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES	
	1. Loksabha	33-44
	2. Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly	45-47
	3. West Bengal Legislative Assembly	48-52
	The Legislative Bodies in Session during the month of February 2015.	53
	Site Addresss of Legislative bodies in India	54-55



Beyond Mandal

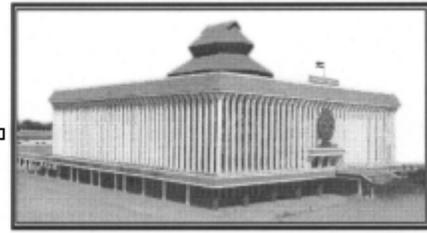
S.M. MENON

Between legislative approval and executive assent, the Mandal Commission recommendations lay in cold storage for exactly a decade. Ten years after both Houses of Parliament had approved it unanimously, the V.P. Singh government, in August 1990, decided to make job reservations for the “socially and educationally backward classes” (SEBCs) an integral element of official policy.

The turbulence that followed in the northern belt—as the student community struck an alliance of convenience with political malcontents of various descriptions—was one of the most traumatic phases of recent political history. The disturbances rekindled a movement of militant Hindu consolidation over a Muslim place of worship in Ayodhya. It was as if sections aspiring to the leadership of the Hindu community had decided to compose the fissures within their ranks by whipping up hysteria against a supposedly alien Islamic presence.

The anti-Mandal agitation brought up certain deep-seated pathologies of the Indian political psyche. The commentators who were the most vociferous in denouncing Mandal as a manifesto of national disintegration were precisely those who had turned their eyes away from the killings taking place in the name of Rama. The student protests themselves seemed to display demonstrative contempt towards the more menial of jobs, and the underprivileged sections that performed them. And when elements of the student community began a barbaric cycle of self-immolations, the media seemed to have little use for any of the canons of responsible reporting—loud and lurid photographs shocked public sensitivities; crudely insensitive reportage spread the hysteria. And one student after another was consumed in the gory ritual of human sacrifice.

No government in future could afford to ignore the issues raised by the Mandal Commission. And no government would ever be unaware of the nature of the opposition it would encounter in seeking to give effect to the recommendations.



Votaries of the anti-Mandal agitation argue that reservations will devalue the educational system and destroy whatever incentive there exists for scholastic excellence. This argument has acquired a great deal of credibility-if only through its repeated invocation by ideologues of the anti-reservation movement. It perhaps calls for some examination.

In 1972, India's population stood at 563.9 million. With the birth rate standing around 36.4 per thousand of population, the number of children born that year should have been about 20.5 million. After adjusting for infant mortality at the rate of 132 and under-five mortality at 41.2 per thousand, the number of children surviving to school going age should have been about 17 million. With very marginal attrition in the ranks, these 17 million would have reached the age of 18 in the year 1990.

There will, naturally, be very great disparities between the educational attainments of these 17 million. Perhaps 85 per cent of them would have been to primary school, though only about 30 per cent of the total would have gone through to the secondary stage. As for those completing their higher education, the number would be considerably lower than 5 per cent of the total.

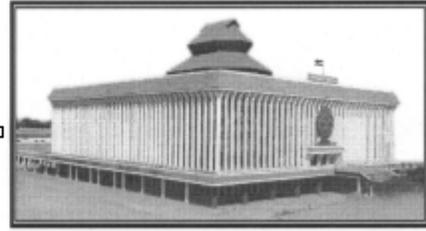
At a time when the competitive ethos of the market economy enjoys a certain vogue, it is easy to portray these disparities in educational attainment as a result of the working of the "merit" principle. But the more enlightened view, supported by most social scientists who have worked on the subject, is that these are the result of the specific ordering of educational priorities in India.

DISCRIMINATORY EDUCATION SYSTEM

As a child matures, the earnings forgone by the family or perceived to be forgone-in putting him/her through school and college increases. The cost of education is to be assessed not merely in terms of the direct expenditures incurred, but also in terms of the earnings the child could potentially bring into the family, had he or she been a part of the labour force. There is, among the poorer sections, a strong disincentive on this account, to putting a child through the secondary stage of education.

To mitigate this problem, governments with a strong welfare orientation usually commit high volumes of subsidies to the secondary stage of education. This has been lacking in India, where government subsidies have been largely targeted towards higher education. As a result, the average child from the poorer sections is unable to cross that crucial hump at the secondary education stage.

Principles of natural justice and equality of opportunity would seem to demand that this discriminatory system of education should not be compounded by a discriminatory system of job selection. Reservations are a means of ensuring this objective. This does not imply the abandonment of educational standards, but only their selective relaxation in certain well-defined cases.



FALLING NUMBER OF JOBS

However, even this justification of the policy will fail if it could be established that job reservations militate against the legitimate interests and aspirations of certain sections. In other words, will the effort to redress the skewed social balance run the risk of seriously damaging the employment opportunities of deserving sections?

Here again, a few indicative figures would serve to shed further light on the question. Since 1961, the highest number of fresh jobs created in the public sector in anyone year has been about 850,000. And this was in an exceptional year. If the average were to be taken since 1961, the number of additional work places created in the public sector has been about 410,000 annually. The annual contribution of the organised private sector to employment creation has been about one-fifth of this figure. Within the organised sector, it is clear that the public sector-and this category includes all levels of government from the Centre to local bodies-has been by far the more significant contributor.

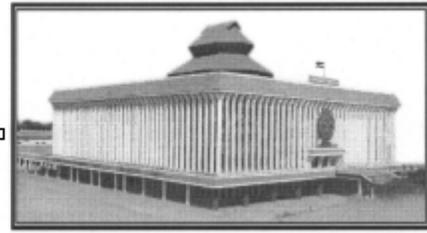
So much for additional job creation. There is then the category of replacement jobs. It may be assumed (very liberally) that of the total public sector employment of 18 million, around 5 per cent falls due for replacement every year, on account of superannuation and other such processes. Then the job absorption on this account will amount to 900,000. The total employment potential of the public sector in any given year would then total about 1.3 million. If a 27 per cent reservation were to be applied to all jobs in the public sector-and not just Central government jobs-then the number of workplaces affected would be about 350,000. If in addition, the 10 per cent reservation for economic backwardness were to be introduced, another 130,000 jobs will be affected. In comparison to the number of aspirants who enter the job market every year, these figures are mere flea-bites.

Assuming, very conservatively, that 50 per cent of those in the age groups between 18 and 25 would be seeking some form of productive employment, there would be an addition of about 8.5 million persons to the labour market every year.

In comparison, the total number of additional jobs created in the public sector-under the most liberal of assumptions-would be just 1.3 million, and that in the organised sector as a whole, about 2 million. Organised-sector employment fails most manifestly to meet the aspirations of the job-seeking youth. The divergence between the number of job-seekers and employment creation is of the order of four times. This is clearly a far more serious problem than the reservation of a mere 350,000 jobs for the SEBCs.

A DIFFERENT DIMENSION

Obviously, what is at issue is not reservation, but the inability of economic policy to create employment opportunities commensurate with the number of aspirants who enter the labour



market every year. This is a problem of a different dimension, and is deeply rooted in the structure of the Indian economy. Over the last 40 years, the industry and service sectors have expanded dramatically in terms of their share in the national income, while failing to contribute much by way of employment generation.

In the first quinquennium of the 1950s, that is, between 1950-51 and 1954-55, the primary sector, within which agriculture predominates, accounted for 56.4 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). Manufacturing industry and services accounted for the rest. In the final quinquennium of the 1980s, that is, between 1985-86 and 1989-90, the primary sector accounted for a mere 34.6 per cent of GDP. Industry and services have evidently increased their share in the national income, as indeed they should in a context of development.

The specific feature of the Indian experience, however, is that the rising share of industry and services in national income has not been accompanied by a rising share in employment. In fact, the combined share of these two sectors in total employment has remained virtually stagnant around 30 per cent for all of 40 years. This could be firmly stated only when detailed results of the 1991 Census are published. But a pattern that was so apparent between the 1951 and 1981 Census enumerations is unlikely to have significantly altered over the last decade.

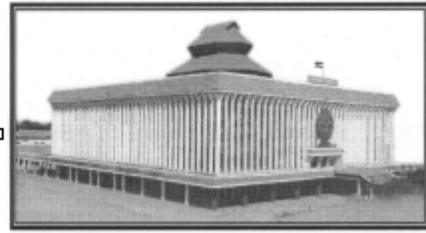
The implications are fairly clear-per capita income levels in the industry and service sectors have increased rapidly over the last four decades, while agriculture has lagged behind, serving as a reservoir for the large numbers of people who are unable to gain access to employment in other sectors. And within the growing sectors, it is again obvious that organised sections would have done much better than others.

ENCLAVE OF PRIVILEGES

Government employment, in fact, has become an enclave of privilege in the midst of a generally depressed economic scenario. Between 1970-71 and 1989-90, average per capita earnings in Central government employment have increased by the order of about 780 per cent. In comparison, the average all-India consumer price index has increased by only 340 per cent. Central government employees, in other words, have been overcompensated for inflation almost twice over since 1970-71.

If all sections of the population were to be able to adjust their earnings similarly for inflation, prices would quickly go out of control on account of a wage-price spiral. The burden of adjustment would have to be borne by some sections. And in the current context it is apparent that this burden has been borne by the large mass of the working people in industry, agriculture and the unorganised service sector.

In objective terms, the arguments against reservation seem to have less to do with merit or with jobs than with safeguarding access to a high-wage island of employment in the country. This

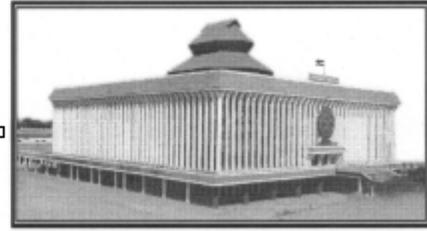


is not an argument that needs to be greatly entertained-whatever the scale of morality used. The growing sense of privileged exclusivity in government service is an aberration that calls out for correction-if necessary through breaking down the caste exclusivity of public employment. If job reservations go some way towards this end, then they should be welcomed on purely objective grounds.

A slogan composed by the pro-Mandal campaigners last year sums up the essence of the matter: *Vote se liya CM, PM; Mandal se leinge SP, DM.* (We have chosen our Chief Ministers and Prime Ministers through the ballot; we will seize the posts of Superintendent of Police and District Magistrate through Mandal.) The Mandal Commission encapsulates the aspirations of certain social groups that have, through their participation in the productive processes, now emerged as a significant political force. They have gained sizeable representation in the legislative institutions. But lacking access to executive power, they have been unable to alter significantly the political agenda in the manner of their choosing. If the Mandal Commission helps in making the executive arm of the government more reflective of the pluralities of Indian society-and at the same time narrows the yawning chasm between legislative decree and executive will-then it can only strengthen the processes of participative democracy. Specious arguments about merit and about the seamless whole of "Hindu" society should not distract attention from this fact.

**FRONTLINE,
FEBRUARY 6, 2015.**





THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BLACK MONEY

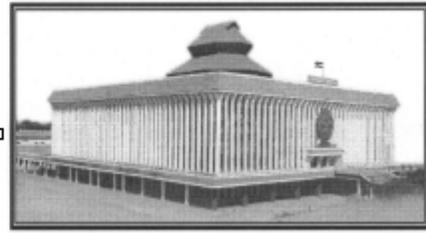
T. Thamizhvanan and K. Balaguru

Black money refers to funds earned on the black market, on which income and other taxes have not been paid. The total amount of black money deposited in foreign banks by Indians is unknown. Some reports claim a total exceeding US\$1.4 trillion are stashed in Switzerland. Other reports, including those reported by Swiss Bankers Association and the Government of Switzerland, claim that these reports are false and fabricated, and the total amount held in all Swiss banks by citizens of India is about US\$2 billion. In February 2012, the director of the Central Bureau of Investigation said that Indians have \$500 billion of illegal funds in foreign tax havens, more than any other country. In March 2012, the Government of India clarified in its parliament that the CBI Director's statement on \$500 billion of illegal money was an estimate based on a statement made to India's Supreme Court in July 2011.

IMPACT OF BLACK INCOME ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEM

It would be of interest to study their impact on the Indian economic and social system there are following points under given,

1. The direct effect of black income is the loss of revenue to the state exchequers as a consequence of tax evasion both direct and indirect taxes. It leads the illegal economic activity and economic inequality and concentration of wealth in the few hands of the unscrupulous few in the country.
2. The availability of black money income with businessmen and capitalists and consequent inequalities of income place of large amount funds at their disposal. It has demonstration effect on all classes of people. As a consequence the consumption pattern is tilted in favour of the rich and elite classes, at the cost of encouraging the production of articles of mass production. A rise in the overall consumption leaves less resource for investment in



priority areas. These distortion in the product rise in favour of non-essential consumption have adverse effects on production.

3. Black money encourages investment in precious stones, jewellery, bullion, etc. It has adverse effect on growth.
4. Black money has encouraged diversion of resources in the purchase of real estate and investment in luxury housing. There is large scale under-valuation of property in this way, lot of black money is made into white. Since, most of these buildings are registered at under-valued prices, the Govt. lose by way of tax revenues when these building are transferred as gift.
5. A part of the black money is held in cash and as a consequence there is an abundance of liquidity which becomes available through the accumulation of saving, held in the form of cash, bullion, gold, silver etc.
6. Black money results in transfer of funds from India to foreign countries through clandestine channels. Such transfers are made possible by violation of foreign exchange regulations through the device of under-invoicing of exports and over invoicing of imports.

NURTURES ANTI - SOCIAL GROUPS

Black money needs 'brute force' for its safeguard and expansion as well as accounting professionals, liaison officers who make a deal involving black money agents and political leaders, likely to infect the whole social and politics fabric of any nation.

ESTIMATES OF BLACK MONEY AND CONTROL

The government has commissioned research to be carried out by three best economic think tanks to calculate the magnitude of black money or unaccounted money produced both inside and beyond the country, a finance ministry assertion said on Sunday. On Saturday 4 June 2011, the government designated a high tier panel of tax authorities to recommend steps to make tighter regulations to suppress the creation of black money. The two steps have been declared a short time prior to an anticorruption demonstration to be started by yoga master Baba Ramdev on 5 June. The UPA government has faced solid critique from legal courts, Opposition parties and civil society organizations due to its dealing with of the problem of black money and corruption in public life. The government has brought some steps to control the complaint and has involved with regulators in tax havens to obtain information about money squirrelled away in these nations. The study is anticipated to reveal the character of pursuits which promote money laundering and its implications on national policy. The study will even look into the type of activities which encourage money laundering and determine crucial areas of the economy in which black money

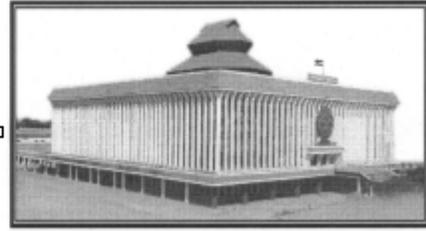


is generated and factors and circumstances that lead to the generation of unaccounted money. It will also look at strategies put to use in generating black money and transformation of such resources for legit activities.

Anti-corruption institutions have also been expected to suggest options for uncovering as well as blocking unaccounted money and bring it into the general economy. They have also been provided the requirement to suggest strategies to be used for taxing black money stashed in overseas countries. The study will also estimate the quantum of non-payment of tax due to evasion by registered corporate bodies. The government has so far held that there are simply no dependable estimates of black money generated and kept inside and beyond the nation. It states the various estimates on the quantum of black money vary around \$500 to \$1400 billion. A study by the Global Financial Integrity Group has projected the illicit outflow at about \$462 billion. The finance ministry says these estimations derived from generally unverifiable presumptions and therefore the government has carried out the study to find out the exact proportions of the black economy. Global Financial Integrity (GFI), a Washington-based organisation, estimated the unlawful outflows out of India to be \$27. 2 billion each year on an average throughout the 5 year interval 2002-06. Dev Kar, an economist of this institute, estimated an outflow of \$462 billion (equal to Rs20 lakh crore) during the period 1948-2008. Up to 72% of the illicit resources generated in India are estimated to be moving abroad. One more estimate of the aggregate black money is Rs. 71 lakh crore. Prof Arun Kumar puts the black money at 50% of the GDP of the country. Finance minister Mukherjee too put the estimate between \$462 billion and \$1. 2 trillion. Possibly the finance minister has simply no idea.

CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECT TAXES

It is a statutory authority functioning across India under the Central Board of Revenue Act of 1963. This organization has Investigation Wings, spread all across India, which are headed by the Director General of Income Tax (Investigation) to find and stop black money. The Director General of Income Tax (International Taxation) is in charge of taxation issues arising from cross-border transactions and transfer pricing. It administers the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act of 1973 (FERA), later updated to Foreign Exchange Management Act of 1999 (FEMA). It is entrusted with the investigation and prosecution of money-laundering offences, confiscation of the proceeds of such crime, matters related to foreign exchange market and international hawala transactions. Financial Intelligence Unit has been operating as a separate investigative entity since 2004. This government organization is for receiving, processing, analysing, and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions. It shares this information with other ministries, enforcement and financial investigative agencies of state and central government of India. Every month, it routinely examines about 700,000 investigative reports and over 1,000 suspect financial transaction trails to help identify and stop black money and money laundering.



Central Board of Excise and Customs and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence is the apex intelligence organization responsible for detecting cases of evasion of central excise and service tax. The Directorate develops intelligence, especially in new areas of tax evasion through its intelligence network across the country and disseminates information across Indian government organizations by issuing Modus Operandi Circulars and Alert Circulars to apprise field formations of the latest trends in tax evasion. It routinely organizes enforcement operations to unearth evasion of duty and taxes. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence functions under the CBEC. It is entrusted with the responsibility of collection of data and information and its analysis, collation, interpretation and dissemination on matters relating to violations of taxation and customs law. The organization has thousands of employees and is divided into seven zones all over India. It maintains close liaison with the World Customs Organisation, Brussels, the Regional Intelligence Liaison Office at Tokyo, INTERPOL and foreign customs administrations.

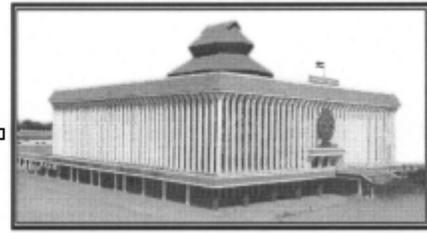
Central Economic Intelligence Bureau functions under India's Ministry of Finance. It is responsible for coordination, intelligence sharing, and investigations at national as well as regional levels amongst various law enforcement agencies to prevent financial crimes, generation and parking of black money and illegal transfers. This organization maintains constant interaction with its Customs Overseas Investigation Network (COIN) offices to share intelligence and information on suspected international financial transactions. The COIN offices gather evidence through diplomatic channels from the foreign custom offices and other foreign establishments to establish cases of mis-declaration to help identify and stop tax evasion and money laundering. In addition to direct efforts, the Indian central government coordinates its efforts with state governments with dedicated departments to monitor and stop corporate frauds, bank frauds, frauds by non-banking financial companies, sales tax frauds and income tax-related frauds.

TAX INFORMATION EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS

To curb black money, India has signed TIEA with 10 countries - Bahamas, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Isle of Man, the Cayman Islands, Jersey, Monaco, St. Kitts and Nevis, Argentina and the Marshall Islands - where money is believed to have been stashed away. India and Switzerland, claims a report, have agreed to allow India to routinely obtain banking information about Indians in Switzerland from April 1, 2011.

REDUCING DISINCENTIVES AGAINST VOLUNTARY COMPLIANCE

Excessive tax rates increase black money and tax evasion. When tax rates approach 100 per cent, tax revenues approach zero, because higher is the incentive for tax evasion and greater the propensity to generate black money. The report finds that punitive taxes create an economic environment where economic agents are not left with any incentive to produce. Another cause of black money; the report finds is the high transaction costs associated with compliance with the law. Opaque and complicated regulations are other major disincentive that hinders compliance



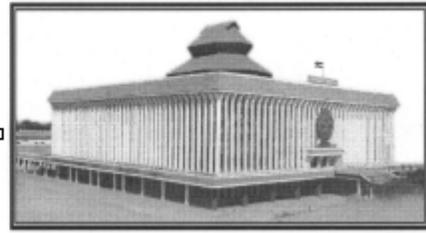
and pushes people towards underground economy and creation of black money. Compliance burden includes excessive need for compliance time, as well as excessive resources to comply. Lower taxes and simpler compliance process reduces black money; suggests the white paper.

ECONOMIC LIBERALIZATION

The report suggests that non-tariff barriers to economic activity such as permits and licenses, long delays in getting approvals from government agencies are an incentive to proceed with underground economy and hide black money. Where one cannot get a permit to undertake a legitimate activity, the transaction costs approach infinity, and create insurmountable incentives for unreported and unaccounted activities that will inevitably generate black money. The successive waves of economic liberalization in India since 1990s have encouraged compliance and taxes collected by the government of India have dramatically increased over this period. The process of economic liberalization must be relentlessly continued to further remove underground economy and black money, suggests the report.

REFORMS IN VULNERABLE SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY

Certain vulnerable sectors of Indian economy are more prone to underground economy and black money than others. These sectors need systematic reforms. As example, the report offers gold trading, which was one of the major sources of black money generation and even crime prior to the reforms induced in that sector. While gold inflows into India have remained high after reforms, gold smuggling is no longer the menace as it used to be. Similar effective reforms of other vulnerable sectors like real estate, the report suggests can yield a significant dividend in the form of reducing generation of black money in the long term. The real estate sector in India constitutes about 11 per cent of its GDP. Investment in property is a common means of parking unaccounted money and a large number of transactions in real estate are not reported or are under-reported. This is mainly on account of very high levels of property transaction taxes, commonly in the form of stamp duty. High transaction taxes in property are one of the biggest impediments to the development of an efficient property market. Real estate transactions also involve complicated compliance and high transaction costs in terms of search, advertising, commissions, registration, and matters related to title disputes and litigation. People of India find it easier to deal with real estate transactions and opaque paperwork by paying bribes and through cash payments and under-declaration of value. Unless the real estate transaction process and tax structure is simplified, the report suggests this source of black money will be difficult to prevent. Old and complicated laws such as the Urban Land Ceiling Regulation Act and Rent Control Act need to be repealed, property value limits and high tax rates eliminated, while Property Title Certification system dramatically simplified. Other sectors of Indian economy needing reform, as identified by the report, include equity trading market, mining permits, bullion and non profit organizations.



CREATING EFFECTIVE CREDIBLE DETERRENCE

Effective and credible deterrence is necessary in combination with reforms, transparency, simple processes, elimination of bureaucracy and discretionary regulations. Credible deterrence needs to be cost effective, claims the report. Such deterrence to black money can be achieved by information technology, integration of systems and compliance departments of the Indian government, direct tax administration, adding data mining capabilities, and improving prosecution processes.

SUPPORTIVE MEASURES

Along with deterrence, the report suggests public awareness initiatives must be launched. Public support for reforms and compliance are necessary for long term solution to black money. In addition, financial auditors of companies have to be made more accountable for distortions and lapses. The report suggests Whistle-blower laws must be strengthened to encourage reporting and tax recovery.

AMNESTY

Amnesty programs have been proposed to encourage voluntary disclosure by tax evaders. These voluntary schemes have been criticized on the grounds that they provide a premium on dishonesty and are unfair to honest taxpayers, as well as for their failure to achieve the objective of unearthing undisclosed money. The report suggests that such amnesty programmes cannot be an effective and lasting solution.

INTERNATIONAL ENFORCEMENT

India has Double Tax Avoidance Agreements with 82 nations, including all popular tax haven countries. Of these, India has expanded agreements with 30 countries which requires mutual effort to collect taxes on behalf of each other, if a citizen attempts to hide black money in the other country. The report suggests that the agreement be expanded to other countries as well to help with enforcement.

CONCLUSION

Black money is not a unique Indian phenomenon. It is observed all over the world, sometimes in equivalent local language such as le travail an noir, schwarzarbeit or svana sektor; and sometimes by different names such as: underground money or economy, grey, cash, dual, covert, hidden, illegal, informal, irregular, marginal, parallel, moonlight, second, shadow, bootleg, subterranean, twilight, under-the-table, unobserved, unofficial, unrecorded, or unreported. Other than Japan and Switzerland where the black money economy has been estimated to be less than 5%, scholars report that the black money in developed economies ranges between 10 to 25% of each nation's



GDP. In case of certain economics such as Greece, the estimates for black money range between 25 to 55%. These estimates suggest an annual underground economy in the range of US\$100 billion to over US\$1 trillion per developed country. The ratio of undeclared and declared economic transactions are higher in nations or commodities with high taxes (tobacco), excessive regulations or opaque bureaucracy. Schneider estimates, using the dynamic multiple-indicators multiple-causes method and by currency demand method, that the size of India's black money economy is between 23 to 26%, compared to an Asia-wide average of 28 to 30%, to an Africa-wide average of 41 to 44%, and to a Latin America-wide average of 41 to 44% of respective gross domestic products. According to this study, the average size of the shadow economy (as a percent of "official" GDP) in 96 developing countries is 38.7%.

**KISANWORLD,
FEBRUARY, 2015.**





ഡിജിറ്റൽ ഇന്ത്യാ പരിപാടി - പൊതുഭരണ പരിഷ്കരണത്തിനുള്ള മഹത്തായ ഉദ്യമം

**വൈ. കെ. ദിവേദി, ന്യൂപേന്ദ്ര പി. റാണ,
അന്റോണീസ് സി. സിമിൻതിരാസ്, ബനിതാ ലാൽ**

വിവര-സമ്പർക്ക-സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യ (ICTs)യെ ആശ്രയിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുള്ള പൊതു ഭരണ പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾ വിവിധ തലത്തിലുള്ള തല്പര കക്ഷികൾക്ക് ധാരാളം പ്രയോജനങ്ങളും അവസരങ്ങളും പ്രദാനം ചെയ്യാൻ കെല്പുള്ളവയാണ്. പൊതു സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളുടെ കാര്യശേഷി, പ്രതികരണശേഷി, ഫലദായകശേഷി, ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥ മേധാവിത്വത്തിന്മേലുള്ള നിയന്ത്രണം, മെച്ചപ്പെട്ട സമ്പർക്ക-ഏകോപനശേഷി തുടങ്ങിയ കാര്യങ്ങൾ ഉറപ്പുവരുത്തുന്നതിന് ഇതിലൂടെ സാധിക്കുന്നു. ICTs യിലൂടെ ശാക്തീകരിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന ഗവൺമെന്റ് സേവനങ്ങൾ കൂടുതൽ പൗരകേന്ദ്രീകൃതവും എവിടെയും പൗരന് സ്വീകരിക്കാനും ഉതകുന്ന തരത്തിലായിരിക്കണം.

1990കൾ മുതൽ തന്നെ ഇ-ഗവേണൻസി രൂപത്തിൽ പരിഷ്കാരങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള ശ്രമങ്ങൾ ആരംഭിച്ചിരുന്നു. 2006-ൽ തുടക്കം കുറിച്ച ദേശീയ ഇ-ഗവേണൻസ് പദ്ധതി NeGP പ്രസ്തുത തുടക്കത്തിന് ആക്കം വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഇ-ഗവേണൻസ് വികസന സൂചികയുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ ഇന്ത്യ ഇപ്പോൾ 117 ലോക രാജ്യങ്ങളുടെ പിന്നിലാണ്. യോജനയുടെ മുൻലക്കത്തിലെ ലേഖനത്തിൽ ഒരു മാതൃകാ വിജ്ഞാന സമൂഹമായ ഇന്ത്യ രൂപാന്തരം പ്രാപിക്കുന്നതിൽ നിന്ന് പിന്നോട്ട് വലിക്കുന്ന ഘടകങ്ങളെ വേർതിരിച്ച് കണ്ടെത്താൻ ശ്രമിച്ചിരുന്നു. അന്ന് കണ്ടെത്തിയിരുന്ന കാരണങ്ങൾ ഇവയാണ്: കേന്ദ്ര-സംസ്ഥാന-ജില്ലാ തലങ്ങളിൽ ചിതറികിടക്കുന്ന ICT - സംവിധാനങ്ങളുടെ സമന്വയം നടന്നിട്ടില്ല, ആത്യന്തിക ഗുണഭോക്താവിലേക്ക് ചെന്നെത്താൻ കഴിയുന്നില്ല, പ്രാദേശിക തലങ്ങളിൽ ആവശ്യമായത്ര പൊതുസേവന കേന്ദ്രങ്ങൾ നിലവിലില്ല, ബോധവൽക്കരണത്തിന്റെ, ഗവൺമെന്റ് സൗകര്യങ്ങളുടെ പ്രാപ്യതയുടെ അഭാവം, താഴ്ന്ന നില



യിലുള്ള ഡിജിറ്റൽ സാക്ഷരത, ഇ-സേവനങ്ങൾ പ്രാദേശിക ഭാഷകളിൽ സുലഭ മല്ലാത്ത സ്ഥിതി, ജനങ്ങളിൽ നിലനിൽക്കുന്ന വിശ്വാസക്കുറവ്, വ്യക്തിപരമായ സ്വകാര്യതയെയും സുരക്ഷിതത്വത്തെയും പറ്റിയുള്ള ആശങ്കകൾ എന്നിവയാണ് പ്രധാനമായും ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കപ്പെട്ടത്.

ഡിജിറ്റൽ ഇന്ത്യാ പരിപാടി എന്നാണ് ഭരണപരിഷ്കരണ രംഗത്തെ നാഴികക്കല്ല് എന്ന് വിശേഷിപ്പിക്കാവുന്ന പുതിയ പദ്ധതിയുടെ പേര്, ഈ പദ്ധതി പൂർണ്ണ വിജയത്തിൽ എത്തിക്കാൻ കഴിയുമെങ്കിൽ, അത് സാമൂഹ്യ, സാമ്പത്തിക വികസനത്തിന്റെയും പൊതുഭരണ പരിഷ്കരണത്തിന്റെയും മേഖലകളിൽ ശ്രദ്ധേയവും സാർത്ഥകവുമായ പരിവർത്തനങ്ങളിലേക്ക് നയിക്കും. ഡിജിറ്റൽ ഇന്ത്യയെ സംബന്ധിച്ച വിഹഗ വീക്ഷണമാണ് ഈ ലേഖനത്തിലൂടെ ലക്ഷ്യീകരിക്കുന്നത്.

ഡിജിറ്റൽ ഇന്ത്യ-രൂപരേഖ

ഇന്ത്യയെ ഡിജിറ്റൽ സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യയുടെ സഹായത്തോടെ ശാക്തീകരിക്കപ്പെട്ട, വിവര-വിജ്ഞാന സമൂഹമാക്കി മാറ്റുക എന്ന ലക്ഷ്യത്തോടെ വിവിധ മന്ത്രാലയങ്ങളുടെ സംയുക്ത ആഭിമുഖ്യത്തിൽ തുടക്കം കുറിക്കുന്ന ഒന്നാണ് ഡിജിറ്റൽ ഇന്ത്യാ പരിപാടി (DIP). ഇത് മുൻപ് നിലവിലിരുന്ന NeGP പുനരാവിഷ്കരണമാണെന്ന് പറയാവുന്നതാണ്. കേന്ദ്ര സർക്കാരിന്റെ ഇലക്ട്രോണിക്സ് ആൻഡ് ഇൻഫർമേഷൻ ടെക്നോളജി വകുപ്പ് ആവിഷ്കരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഈ പരിപാടിക്ക് വേണ്ടി 10,000 കോടി രൂപയാണ് അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. 2014 ആഗസ്റ്റ് 20-ാം തീയതി DIP ക്ക് കേന്ദ്ര മന്ത്രിസഭയുടെ അംഗീകാരം ലഭിച്ചു. വൻ ലക്ഷ്യങ്ങളുള്ള ഈ പരിപാടി 2018-ൽ പൂർത്തീകരിക്കപ്പെടണം. വൻമാറ്റങ്ങളുടെ കാരകത്വം നിക്ഷിപ്തമായിട്ടുള്ള ഈ പരിപാടിയുടെ പ്രധാന ലക്ഷ്യം ഗവൺമെന്റിന്റെ സർവ്വ പ്രവർത്തന പ്രക്രിയകളെയും പുനർനിർവചിക്കുകയും പൂർണ്ണമായും ഡിജിറ്റൽ ആക്കുകയും തദ്ദേശ ഗവൺമെന്റ് സേവനങ്ങളുടെ ലഭ്യതയും പ്രാപ്യതയും ഇലക്ട്രോണിക് രൂപത്തിൽ സുഗമമാക്കുകയും കൂടുതൽ തൊഴിലവസരങ്ങൾ സൃഷ്ടിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുക എന്നതാണ്.

DIP-ന്റെ ദർശനം മൂന്ന് മുഖ്യ മേഖലകളിൽ കേന്ദ്രീകൃതമാണ്: (1) ICT അടിസ്ഥാന സൗകര്യങ്ങളെ ഓരോ പൗരന്റെയും അടിസ്ഥാന ആവശ്യമായി പരിഗണിക്കുക (2) സർഭരണവും സേവനങ്ങളും നിർലോഭം ലഭ്യമാക്കുക (3) പൗരൻമാരുടെ ഡിജിറ്റൽ ശാക്തീകരണം ഉറപ്പാക്കുക.

ആദ്യം പറഞ്ഞ ICT അടിസ്ഥാന സൗകര്യങ്ങളിൽ നിരവധി കാര്യങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെടുന്നുണ്ട്. ICT അടിസ്ഥാന സൗകര്യങ്ങൾ വെള്ളത്തിനും വൈദ്യുതിക്കും നൽകുന്ന



മുൻഗണനയോടെ പൗരന് പ്രദാനം ചെയ്യപ്പെടണം എന്നതാണ് ഈ കാഴ്ചപ്പാട്. എല്ലാ ഗ്രാമപഞ്ചായത്ത് പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലും അതിവേഗ ഇന്റർനെറ്റ് ലഭ്യത ഉറപ്പുരുത്തി പൗരന്മാരുടെ ഡിജിറ്റൽ ശാക്തീകരണം യാഥാർത്ഥ്യമാക്കണം; ഓരോ പൗരന്റെയും ഡിജിറ്റൽ തിരിച്ചറിവ് സചേതനമാക്കണം; പൗരന് മൊബൈൽ ഫോൺ, ബാങ്ക് അക്കൗണ്ടുകൾ തുടങ്ങിയ മാധ്യമങ്ങളിലൂടെ ഡിജിറ്റൽ-ധനകാര്യ മേഖലയിൽ വ്യാപരിക്കുന്നതിനും അതിലൂടെ സാമൂഹ്യ-സാമ്പത്തിക ശാക്തീകരണം നേടുന്നതിനും കഴിയണം; പൊതു സേവന കേന്ദ്രങ്ങളുടെ പ്രാപ്യത ഉറപ്പാക്കണം. അവ സേവന പ്രദാന രംഗത്തെ വിവിധ ആവശ്യങ്ങൾ പ്രാദേശികമായി പൂർത്തീകരിക്കാൻ ഉതകുന്ന, ആ രംഗത്തെ അവസാന വാക്ക് ആയിരിക്കണം; ഓരോ പൗരനും ഡിജിറ്റൽ പൊതുസ്ഥലത്ത് (Cloud) ഒരു സ്വകാര്യ ഇടം ലഭ്യമാക്കാൻ ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം; ഇലക്ട്രോണിക് സേവന ഉല്പന്നങ്ങൾ ഭീതിരഹിതമായും സുരക്ഷിതമായും പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുത്താൻ അനുയോജ്യമായ സൈബർ വേദി സ്ഥാപിതമാക്കണം.

സദ്ഭരണവും ആവശ്യാധിഷ്ഠിത സേവനവും എന്നതാണ് രണ്ടാമത്തെ പ്രധാന പരിഗണന: വിവിധ ഗവൺമെന്റ് വകുപ്പുകളിൽ നിന്ന് വ്യത്യസ്ത വിഭാഗങ്ങളിൽപ്പെട്ട തല്പരകക്ഷികൾക്ക് നൽകിവരുന്ന സേവനങ്ങൾ, എക ജാലക സംവിധാനത്തിൽ കൂടി ലഭ്യമാക്കാവുന്ന രൂപത്തിൽ സമരസപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതാണ്; അത്തരം സേവനങ്ങൾ മൊബൈൽ-ഓൺലൈൻ പ്ലാറ്റ്ഫോമുകളിലൂടെ തൽസമയ സ്വഭാവത്തോടെ പ്രദാനം ചെയ്യപ്പെടണം. പൗരന്മാർക്ക് നിലവിൽ എർപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള അർഹതകളെ സംബന്ധിച്ച അടിസ്ഥാന വിവരങ്ങൾ അവർക്ക് അയത്നമായി ലഭിക്കുന്ന രീതിയിൽ Cloud തലത്തിൽ തന്നെ സൂക്ഷിക്കാൻ ശ്രമിക്കണം. അതുപോലെ ബിസിനസ്സ് പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ സുഗമമാക്കുന്നതിനായി ഗവൺമെന്റ് സേവനങ്ങൾ സമുചിതമായി ഇലക്ട്രോണിക് സങ്കേതങ്ങളിലേക്ക് മാറ്റേണ്ടതാണ്-കാഷ് ഇല്ലാതെ തന്നെ ധനകാര്യ ഇടപാടുകൾ നടത്താൻ കഴിയുന്ന അവസ്ഥ ഉണ്ടാവണം. തീരുമാനങ്ങൾ കൈക്കൊള്ളുന്നതിനും, വികസനകാര്യങ്ങൾക്കും യോഗ്യമായ വിധത്തിൽ സംയോജിത ഇലക്ട്രോണിക്-ഗവൺമെന്റ് സംവിധാനം അനിവാര്യമാണ്.

മുൻഗണനാക്രമത്തിൽ മൂന്നാം സ്ഥാനത്ത് വരുന്നത് പൗരന്മാരുടെ ഡിജിറ്റൽ ശാക്തീകരണമാണ്. ഇതിന്റെ ഉള്ളടക്കങ്ങൾ, ഇന്ത്യൻ പൗരന്മാരെ ഒന്നടങ്കം ഡിജിറ്റൽ സാക്ഷരരാക്കുക; ഡിജിറ്റൽ വിഭവങ്ങൾ വ്യാപകമായി ലഭ്യമാക്കുക; ഗവൺമെന്റ് രേഖകൾ, സാക്ഷിപത്രങ്ങൾ തുടങ്ങിയവ സാർവ്വത്രികമായി ലഭ്യമാക്കുന്നതിനായി 'Cloud' ആസ്ഥാനത്ത് നിക്ഷിപ്തമാക്കുക; ഡിജിറ്റൽ വിഭവങ്ങൾ വ്യാപകമായി കൈക്കൊള്ളുന്നതിനെയും ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനെയും



പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിലേക്കായി അവയെ പ്രാദേശിക ഭാഷകളിൽ ലഭ്യമാക്കുക; പൊതുജന പങ്കാളിത്തത്തിലൂടെയുള്ള സർഭരണം ലക്ഷ്യമാക്കി ഡിജിറ്റൽ ഉദ്യമങ്ങളിലും കൂട്ടായ്മ സുനിശ്ചിതമാക്കുകയും പൗരന്റെ അർഹതകൾ ഡിജിറ്റൽ മാധ്യമങ്ങളിലൂടെ വെളിപ്പെടുത്തുകയും വേണം.

ഇവിടെ എടുത്തു പറഞ്ഞ മൂന്ന് സമീപനങ്ങളുടെ സാക്ഷാൽക്കാരത്തിനായി ഡിജിറ്റൽ ഇന്ത്യാ പ്രോഗ്രാം ഒൻപത് നെടുംതൂണുകൾ കണ്ടെത്തിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അവ ഇപ്രകാരം ആകുന്നു. (1) ബ്രോഡ് ബാൻഡ് മഹാപാതകൾ (2) മൊബൈൽ ബന്ധം സാർവ്വത്രികമാക്കുക (3) പൊതുജനങ്ങൾക്ക് ഇന്റർനെറ്റ് ലഭ്യത (4) ഗവൺമെന്റ് പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെ സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യയുടെ സഹായത്തോടെ പരിഷ്കരിക്കുന്ന ഇ-ഗവൺനൻസ് (5) സേവനങ്ങൾ ഇലക്ട്രോണിക് മാധ്യമത്തിലൂടെ ലഭ്യമാക്കുന്ന ഇ-ക്രാന്തി (6) എല്ലാവർക്കും വിവരങ്ങൾ (7) വൻതോതിലുള്ള ഇലക്ട്രോണിക് ഉല്പാദനം (8) എല്ലാ തൊഴിൽ മേഖലയിലും IT സാന്നിധ്യം (9) വിളംബര രഹിതമായ ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തൽ. ബ്രോഡ്ബാൻഡ് ഹൈവേ എന്നത് കൊണ്ട് അർത്ഥമാക്കുന്നത് ഗ്രാമ നഗരപ്രദേശങ്ങളെ സമ്പൂർണ്ണമായി ബ്രോഡ് ബാൻഡ് സാന്നിധ്യ പ്രദേശമാക്കുകയും അതിനെ ദേശീയ വിവര ശൃംഘലയുമായി സമന്വയിപ്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു എന്നതാണ്. അതുപോലെ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ എല്ലാ ഭാഗത്തും മൊബൈൽ ബന്ധം കിട്ടേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. രാജ്യത്തെ 2,50,000 ഗ്രാമ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ 2017 മാർച്ചിനുള്ളിൽ സൗകര്യപ്രദമായ സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ തെരഞ്ഞെടുത്ത് പൊതുസേവന കേന്ദ്രങ്ങൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കുക, അതോടൊപ്പം തന്നെ 1,50,000 പോസ്റ്റോഫീസുകളെ ഈ രംഗത്തെ വിവിധോദ്ദേശ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളാക്കി രൂപാന്തരം ചെയ്യുക എന്നതാണ്. ഗവൺമെന്റ് തലത്തിൽ നിലവിലുള്ള അപേക്ഷാഹോരങ്ങളുടെ ലളിതവൽക്കരണം, ഓൺലൈനായി അപേക്ഷകൾ സമർപ്പിക്കാനും പിൻതുടരാനുമുള്ള സൗകര്യം, ഓൺലൈനായി വിവരങ്ങൾ സൂക്ഷിക്കാനുള്ള സൗകര്യം, നിലവിലുള്ള ഓൺലൈൻ പ്ലാറ്റ്ഫോമുകളുടെ സമന്വയം, പൊതു പരാതി പരിഹാര സമ്പ്രദായങ്ങൾ ICT യിലൂടെ സ്വയം പ്രവർത്തനശേഷിയുള്ളതാക്കുക എന്നീ രംഗങ്ങളിൽ ബിസിനസ്സ് പ്രക്രിയ പുനരാവിഷ്കരിക്കുക എന്നതാണ് നാലാമത്തെ പ്രധാന കർമ്മമേഖല.

അഞ്ചാമത്തെ നെടുംതൂൺ പൗരന്മാർക്ക് വിരൽ സ്പർശനത്തിലൂടെ ഗവൺമെന്റിന്റെ ഏത് സേവനവും നേടിയെടുക്കാവുന്ന സാഹചര്യം സൃഷ്ടിക്കുക എന്നതാണ്. ഇ-ക്രാന്തി എന്നാൽ സേവന പ്രദാനത്തിന് ഇലക്ട്രോണിക് മാധ്യമം ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തുക എന്നതാണ്: ഇ-വിദ്യാഭ്യാസം-ഈ-ആരോഗ്യപരിരക്ഷ GIS സങ്കേതം ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തി ആസൂത്രണം, മൊബൈൽ ബാങ്കിങ്ങ്, മൈക്രോ എ.ടി.എം. എന്നിവയിലൂടെ സാമ്പത്തിക മേഖലയിൽ പൂർണ്ണ ഉൾക്കൊള്ളൽ,



പോലീസ്, നീതിന്യായം, ജയിൽ, പ്രോസിക്യൂഷൻ മേഖലകളിൽ ഇ-സംവിധാനങ്ങൾ എന്നിങ്ങനെ വൈപുല്യമാർന്നതാണ് ഇ-ക്രാന്തി പരിപാടി. ഗവൺമെന്റ് തലത്തിലുള്ള എല്ലാ വിവരങ്ങളും രേഖകളും ഓൺലൈൻ പോർട്ടലുകളിൽ ലഭ്യമാക്കിക്കൊണ്ടും സാമൂഹ്യ മാധ്യമങ്ങളിൽ സജീവ സാന്നിധ്യം നൽകിക്കൊണ്ടും ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് പുതിയ വിവരങ്ങളും, സന്ദേശങ്ങളും നിരന്തരം ലഭ്യമാക്കിക്കൊണ്ടും എല്ലാവർക്കും വിവരങ്ങൾ ലഭ്യമാക്കുക എന്നതാണ് ഈ ദിശയിലേക്കുള്ള ആറാമത്തെ മുഖ്യ പരിശ്രമം.

രാജ്യത്തിന് ആവശ്യമായ മുഴുവൻ ഇലക്ട്രോണിക് സാധന സാമഗ്രികളും 2020 ആകുമ്പോഴേക്കും പൂർണ്ണമായി ഇന്ത്യയിൽ തന്നെ ഉല്പാദിപ്പിക്കുക എന്ന ലക്ഷ്യത്തോടടുത്തുള്ള മുന്നേറ്റമാണ് ഏഴാമത്തേത്. ഉല്പാദന രംഗത്ത് ഇപ്പോൾ നിലനിൽക്കുന്ന ഘടന ഈ ലക്ഷ്യം നേടുന്നതിന് പര്യാപ്തമല്ല. നടപ്പിലാക്കിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്ന പദ്ധതികളിൽ സൂക്ഷ്മതലത്തിൽ വ്യതിയാനങ്ങൾ വരുത്തിയെങ്കിലേ ലക്ഷ്യപ്രാപ്തിയിൽ എത്താൻ കഴിയുകയുള്ളൂ. എട്ടാമത്തേതും ഏറ്റവും പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ടതും ആയ വിഷയം വിവര-സമ്പർക്ക സാങ്കേതിക രംഗത്ത് കൂടുതൽ തൊഴിലവസരങ്ങൾ സൃഷ്ടിക്കുക എന്നതാണ്. ഒൻപതാമതായി ഗവൺമെന്റിന്റെ സന്ദേശങ്ങളും ആശംസകളും ഇലക്ട്രോണിക് മാധ്യമങ്ങളിലൂടെ നൽകുന്നതിനും ഓഫീസുകളിലെ ഹാജർ നില ബയോമെട്രിക് രീതിയിൽ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതിനും ഉള്ള ഐ.ടി വേദി തയ്യാറാക്കുക എന്നതാണ്. Early Harvest Programme എന്നറിയപ്പെടുന്ന ഇത്തരം പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങൾ തുടങ്ങി കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്.

വിലയിരുത്തലും ശുപാർശകളും

ഗവൺമെന്റിന്റെ ഡിജിറ്റൽ ഇന്ത്യ ഉദ്യമം പ്രശംസനീയവും ശ്രദ്ധേയവും ആണെന്ന ഞങ്ങളുടെ വിലയിരുത്തൽ തികച്ചും ബോധപൂർവ്വമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണ്. കാരണം ഇത് സമഗ്രവും സർവ്വതലസ്തർശിയും ആണ്. കൂടാതെ ദീർഘകാല സുസ്ഥിര നിലനിൽപ്പ്-മുന്നിൽ കണ്ടുകൊണ്ടുകൂടി ഉള്ളതാണ്.

DIP യുടെ സമഗ്ര സ്വഭാവം വ്യക്തമാകുന്നത്, അടിസ്ഥാന സൗകര്യ വികസനം, ഇലക്ട്രോണിക് സേവനങ്ങൾ കുറ്റമറ്റതാക്കൽ, പൗരന്മാരുടെ ഇ-സാക്ഷരത എന്നീ കാര്യങ്ങളിൽ നൽകുന്ന ഊന്നലിലൂടെ തന്നെയാണ്. പൗരന്മാരുടെ ഡിജിറ്റൽ ശാക്തീകരണം ഈ മൂന്ന് ഘടകങ്ങളെ ആശ്രയിച്ചാണ് നിലകൊള്ളുന്നത്. ഇതിൽ ഏത് ഘടകത്തിന് തടസ്സം സംഭവിച്ചാലും അത് ഡിജിറ്റൽ ഇന്ത്യ പരിപാടിക്ക് ഹാനികരമായിരിക്കും. നഗര-ഗ്രാമപ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെ മുഴുവൻ ജനങ്ങളെയും പ്രയോജന പരിധിയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവരണം. കർക്കശമായ കാഴ്ചപ്പാട് സ്വീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതും ഇന്റർനെറ്റ് ബന്ധം സുദൃഢമാക്കുന്നതിലേക്കായി



ബ്രോഡ്ബാൻഡ് മൊബൈൽ സമന്വയം വിഭാവനം ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളതും ഡിജിറ്റൽ അസമത്വങ്ങൾ ദൂരീകരിക്കാൻ പ്രത്യേകമായി ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിക്കുന്നു എന്നതും DIP യെ സർവ്വതലസ്പർശിക്കുന്ന കാര്യങ്ങളാണ്.

ഈ പരിപാടിയുടെ ബൃഹദ് സ്വഭാവം, വമ്പിച്ച മാറ്റങ്ങളിലേക്ക് നയിക്കും എന്നത് വൻതോതിൽ നിപുണതയും തൊഴിലവസരങ്ങളും സൃഷ്ടിക്കും എന്നതും DIP യെ ശ്രദ്ധേയമായ പരിപാടിയാക്കുന്നു. ഇതിലൂടെ 1.7 കോടി പ്രത്യക്ഷ തൊഴിലുകളും 8.5 കോടി പരോക്ഷ തൊഴിലുകളും വിഭാവനം ചെയ്യപ്പെടുന്നു. DIP-പോലെ ഇത്രയും വലിയ മാനങ്ങളുള്ള ഡിജിറ്റൽ പദ്ധതികൾ ഇന്നുവരെ അവതരിപ്പിക്കപ്പെട്ടിട്ടില്ല. ഗൂഗിൾ, മൈക്രോസോഫ്റ്റ് തുടങ്ങിയ ആഗോള ഐ.ടി സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളും NASS com തുടങ്ങിയ സംഘടനകളും ഈ പരിപാടിയിൽ താല്പര്യം കാണിക്കുന്നു എന്നതും പദ്ധതിയെ ശ്രദ്ധേയമാക്കുന്നു. ഇതിലൂടെ ഡിജിറ്റൽ വിപണനം, ഇലക്ട്രോണിക് വാണിജ്യം, ഗ്രാമ പ്രദേശങ്ങളിലെ ചില്ലറവ്യാപാരം എന്നിവയുടെ ഘടനയെയും അനുദിന പ്രവർത്തനങ്ങളെയും അത്യധികമായി സ്വാധീനിക്കപ്പെടും എന്നതും ശ്രദ്ധേയമാണ്. ദേശീയ, ആഗോള മാധ്യമങ്ങളും വ്യവസായ പ്രമുഖരും DIP യുടെ പ്രശംസനീയ ശ്രദ്ധേയ സ്വഭാവം മനസ്സിലാക്കി കഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ട്.

പദ്ധതി ഭാഗികമായോ പൂർണ്ണമായോ നടപ്പിലാക്കുമ്പോൾ ഇതിന്റെ ഗുണഫലങ്ങൾ അനുഭവവേദ്യമാകുന്നതാണ്. ജീവനക്കാരുടെ ഹാജർനില ബയോമെട്രിക് സംവിധാനങ്ങളിലൂടെ രേഖപ്പെടുത്താൻ ഇപ്പോൾ സാധിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഡിജിറ്റൽ സാക്ഷരത തുടങ്ങിയ ഇതര മാനവിക വികസന മേഖലകളിൽ വലിയ പരിശ്രമങ്ങൾ ആവശ്യമാണ്. ഡിജിറ്റൽ സാക്ഷരത, പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും ഗ്രാമവാസികളുടെ കാര്യത്തിൽ, ചിട്ടയായ പരിശ്രമത്തിലൂടെ മാത്രമേ നേടിയെടുക്കാൻ കഴിയുകയുള്ളൂ.

ഡിജിറ്റൽ സാക്ഷരതയിലേക്ക് നയിക്കുന്ന മാന്ത്രിക വിദ്യകൾ ഒന്നും നിലവിലില്ല. വിപണന രംഗത്ത് നിലവിലുള്ളതുപോലെ ടാർഗ്റ്റ് വിഭാഗത്തെ വേർതിരിച്ച് മനസ്സിലാക്കി വ്യാപനതന്ത്രം മെനയുന്നതിലൂടെ ഈ പ്രക്രിയ സുഗമവും ഫലപ്രദവും ആക്കുവാൻ കഴിയും. പൗരന്മാരെ ഹാഠാദാകർഷിക്കുന്ന വിപണനോന്മുഖമായ ഒരു ചട്ടക്കൂട് (CEF) ഡിജിറ്റൽ സാക്ഷരതാ പ്രാപ്തിക്ക് സഹായകരമാകുന്നതാണ്. പ്രത്യേക ജനവിഭാഗങ്ങളെ പ്രത്യേകമായി കൈകാര്യം ചെയ്യുക എന്നതാണ് CEF ന്റെ താല്പര്യം.

ഇന്റർനെറ്റ് ലഭ്യത ഉറപ്പാക്കുന്നതിന് DIP ബഹുവിധമായ സമീപനങ്ങളാണ് ഉൾക്കൊള്ളിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്. മൊബൈൽ ബ്രോഡ്ബാൻഡ് ഇന്റർനെറ്റ് പോയിന്റുകൾ,



പൊതുസേവന കേന്ദ്രങ്ങൾ തുടങ്ങിയവ ഈ സമീപനങ്ങൾക്ക് വിഘാതമായി തീരുന്ന പ്രധാന സംഗതി വൈദ്യുതി ലഭ്യമല്ലെന്നതും, ഉള്ള ഇടങ്ങളിൽ അനസ്തുതമായി ലഭിക്കുന്നില്ല എന്നതും ആകുന്നു. ആ സ്ഥിതിക്ക് രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ പലഭാഗങ്ങളിലും പ്രസ്തുത സമീപനം അപ്രസക്തമാകുന്നുണ്ട്. അതിനാൽ വൈദ്യുതി ലഭ്യമാക്കാനുള്ള ബദൽ സംവിധാനങ്ങളിലൂടെ മാത്രമെ പൊതുസേവന കേന്ദ്രങ്ങളും മറ്റും യാഥാർത്ഥ്യമാക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുകയുള്ളൂ. സോളാർ പാനലുകൾ സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിലൂടെ സർക്കാർ സേവനങ്ങളുടെ ഇലക്ട്രോണിക് ലഭ്യത ഉറപ്പാക്കുന്ന പൊതുസേവന കേന്ദ്രങ്ങളെ രാവു പകലും (24x7) പ്രവർത്തനക്ഷമമാക്കുവാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നതാണ്. സോളാർ പാനലുകൾക്ക് മതിയായ ക്ഷമതയുണ്ടെന്ന് ഉറപ്പു വരുത്തേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇതിലൂടെ DIP-ക്ക് തുടർച്ചയും സുസ്ഥിരതയും വരുത്താൻ കഴിയും. പരോക്ഷമായി ബദൽ വൈദ്യുതിയുടെ പ്രാധാന്യം ജനമനസ്സുകളിൽ ഊട്ടിഉറപ്പിക്കാനും സാധിക്കും.

Massive online open courses (MOOCs) അഥവാ ഓൺലൈനിലൂടെ വലിയ തോതിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് കമ്പ്യൂട്ടർ പരിശീലനം നൽകാനുള്ള നവീന പരിശ്രമങ്ങൾ ഫലപ്രദം ആകുന്നു. DIP ഈ മേഖലയിൽ മുന്നേറ്റവും വികസനവും നടത്താൻ സന്നദ്ധമാണ്. ഇത് വളരെ വ്യാപകമായി നടത്തപ്പെടേണ്ടതാണ്. ഗുണഭോക്താക്കളുടെ ഹൃദയപൂർവ്വമായ പങ്കാളിത്തം ഈ രംഗത്ത് അനിവാര്യമാണ്. വളരെയധികം പരീക്ഷണ - മാതൃതാ പദ്ധതികളും പ്രത്യേക പ്രാദേശിക സമൂഹങ്ങളെ കേന്ദ്രീകരിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള ഗവേഷണങ്ങളുടെ തുല്യപ്രാധാന്യം അർഹിക്കുന്നു. അതിന്റെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ വേണം MOOCs ന്റെ വ്യാപകമായ പ്രാരംഭം കുറിക്കുവാൻ.

സർക്കാർ ഉടമസ്ഥതയിലുള്ള വിദ്യാലയങ്ങൾ, പ്രത്യേകിച്ചും പിന്നാക്ക സംസ്ഥാനങ്ങളിൽ, ആശാസ്യമായ സ്ഥിതിയിലല്ല. അധ്യാപകർക്ക് ഡിജിറ്റൽ സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യയുടെ ഉപയോഗ നിപുണതയിൽ പരിശീലനം ലഭിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. അതിനാൽ വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളിൽ കേവലം ഇന്റർനെറ്റ് സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നത് കൊണ്ട് മാത്രം പ്രയോജനം ലഭിക്കുകയില്ല. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ ഉപാധികൾ നൽകുന്നതിനും, വിദ്യാർത്ഥി രക്ഷകർത്തൃ- സമൂഹങ്ങളെ ശ്രദ്ധാലുക്കളാക്കുന്നതിനും ഡിജിറ്റൽ സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യയിൽ പരിശീലനം ലഭിച്ച അധ്യാപകർ ആവശ്യമായി വരുന്നു. ബ്രോഡ്ബാൻഡ് ഉപയോഗത്തിൽ റെക്കോർഡ് സൃഷ്ടിച്ച ദക്ഷിണ കൊറിയക്കാർ നടത്തിയ അടിസ്ഥാന പഠനം നമുക്ക് വഴികാട്ടിയാകുന്നതാണ്. ദക്ഷിണ കൊറിയ ബ്രോഡ് ബാന്റ് ഉപയോഗത്തിൽ ലോകത്തിലെ ഒന്നാമത്തെ രാജ്യമായി ഐക്യരാഷ്ട്ര സഭ പ്രഖ്യാപിച്ചിരിക്കുകയാണ്. ഈ നേട്ടത്തിന് പിന്നിൽ ആ രാജ്യത്തിലെ വിദ്യാലയങ്ങളാണ് പ്രധാന പങ്ക് വഹിച്ചത്. ഇതിൽ നിന്നും വ്യക്തമാകുന്നത് ബ്രോഡ്ബാൻഡ്



ബന്ധം, ഇ-ബുക്കുകൾ, ഡിജിറ്റൽ നൈപുണ്യം ഇവ സ്കൂളുകൾ കേന്ദ്രീകരിച്ച് ലഭ്യമാക്കുന്നതിലൂടെ ജന്മസഹജമെന്നപോലെ ഡിജിറ്റൽ കഴിവുകൾ അനായസമായി സമൂഹത്തിൽ സൃഷ്ടിച്ചെടുക്കാൻ കഴിയും എന്നതാണ്.

DIP-യിലെ ഓരോ പ്രത്യേക ഘടകവും പൂർത്തീകരിക്കപ്പെടുമ്പോൾ അപ്പോൾതന്നെ അവയുടെ മൂല്യഗണന നടത്തുവാനുള്ള ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ ഇല്ല എന്നു വേണം ലഭ്യമാകുന്ന വിവരങ്ങളുടെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ മനസ്സിലാക്കുവാൻ. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള മൂല്യഗണനയിലൂടെ പദ്ധതി ഘടകത്തിന്റെ ഉദ്ദിഷ്ട മൂല്യം ലഭ്യമാകുന്നുണ്ടോ എന്നും ഭാവിയിലെ ഇലക്ട്രോണിക് സേവന വികസനത്തിനുള്ള തന്ത്രങ്ങളെ എങ്ങനെ വ്യത്യസ്തമായി, കൈകാര്യം ചെയ്യണം എന്നും വെളിപ്പെടുകയുള്ളൂ. പ്രത്യേകിച്ച് അഴിമതിയുടെ അതിപ്രസരമുള്ള ഇന്ത്യയിൽ DIP പോലുള്ള പദ്ധതിയുടെ ഓരോ പ്രത്യേക ഘടകവും സ്വതന്ത്ര വിമർശനാത്മക നിരീക്ഷണത്തിന് വിധേയമാകേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. ഒരു മൂന്നാം കണ്ണ് പദ്ധതിയെ ശരിയായ പന്ഥാവിലൂടെ നയിക്കുന്നതിന് സഹായകരമായിരിക്കാം. ഈ പ്രവർത്തനം ഇന്ത്യയിലോ പുറത്തോ ഉള്ള ഉന്നത വിദ്യാഭ്യാസ സ്ഥാപനങ്ങളിലെ ഗവേഷകരേയും അക്കാദമിക പ്രതിഭകളെയും ഏല്പിക്കാവുന്നതാണ്. സ്വതന്ത്രവും കർക്കശവുമായ രീതിയിൽ ശാസ്ത്രം അവലംബിക്കുവാൻ അവർ പ്രാപ്തരാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഇത്തരം സംവിധാനങ്ങൾ ഒന്നും തന്നെ DIPയിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി കാണുന്നില്ല. അത്തരത്തിലും ഒരു സൂചനയും ലഭ്യമല്ല.

സാങ്കേതിക വിദ്യ, ബിസിനസ്സ്, മാനേജ്മെന്റ്, ഇതര സാമൂഹ്യ ശാസ്ത്രങ്ങൾ ഇവയിലൊക്കെ ഡോക്ടറൽ തലത്തിൽ പഠനങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്ന സമൂഹത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം DIP മൂലവത്തായ പഠന അവസരങ്ങളുടെ വാതിൽ തുറന്നിട്ടിരിക്കുകയാണ്. ഒരു വിഷയത്തെ മാത്രം കേന്ദ്രീകരിച്ചും ഒന്നിലധികം വിഷയങ്ങളുടെ പാരസ്പര്യം പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുത്തിയും പഠനങ്ങൾ നടത്താൻ അവസരമുണ്ട്. ഈ അവസരങ്ങൾ ഔപചാരികമായി തുറന്ന് കൊടുക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ പദ്ധതിയുടെ ഉത്തമ താല്പര്യങ്ങൾക്ക് ഉതകും എന്നതിനുപരിയായി, ബഹുമുഖ വിഷയങ്ങളിൽ ഗവേഷണ സമൂഹത്തെയും ഗവേഷണ സംസ്കാരത്തെയും വികസിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിലേക്ക് നയിക്കുന്നതാണ്. അക്കാദമിക സമൂഹവും പൊതുമേഖലയുമായി പുതിയ ബന്ധങ്ങൾ സൃഷ്ടിക്കപ്പെടും. അതിനാൽ DIP യുടെ മൂല്യഗണനയിൽ അക്കാദമിക സംഭാവനകൾ അഭിലഷണീയമാണ്.

DIP യുടെ സമാരംഭത്തിലൂടെ നമ്മുടെ രാജ്യത്ത് അടിസ്ഥാന പരിവർത്തനത്തിനുള്ള പാത ഒരുക്കിയിരിക്കുകയാണ്. ലക്ഷ്യ സാക്ഷാൽക്കരണം അനായാസമാണെന്ന് തോന്നലുണ്ടെങ്കിലും, അത് ഋജുരേഖയിലൂടെയുള്ള ഒരു മുന്നേറ്റമായി



രിക്കുകയില്ല. പ്രസ്താവിക്കപ്പെട്ടുകഴിഞ്ഞ തടസ്സങ്ങൾ എല്ലാം തന്നെ യാഥാർത്ഥ്യങ്ങളാണ്. ഡിജിറ്റൽ ഇന്ത്യ പദ്ധതിയുടെ സുഗമമായ ഓരോ പ്രത്യേക പ്രതിബന്ധങ്ങളെയും ദുരീകരിക്കുന്നതിന് നിലവിലുള്ള നാഷണൽ ഇൻഫോർമാറ്റിക് കേന്ദ്രം (NIC) സുസജ്ജമോ സുശക്തമോ അല്ല. ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തിന് അടിസ്ഥാന സ്വഭാവത്തിലുള്ള രൂപാന്തരവും ഭാവപരിണാമവും കൈവരേണ്ടതുണ്ട്. NICക്ക് സംഭവിക്കുന്ന ഈ പരിണാമമായിരിക്കും, ഡിജിറ്റൽ ഇന്ത്യയിലേക്കുള്ള ഇന്ത്യയുടെ വികാസ പരിണാമത്തെ നിർണ്ണയിക്കുക. ഡിജിറ്റൽ ഇന്ത്യയിലേക്കുള്ള നമ്മുടെ യാത്ര അഭംഗുരമായിരിക്കണം. ഒരുനിമിഷ നേരത്തെ താമസമോ തടസ്സമോ ലക്ഷ്യപ്രാപ്തിയെ പ്രതികൂലമായി ബാധിക്കും. ഈ യാത്ര തുടങ്ങിയാൽ, അതിന്റെ പുരോഗതി പൗരന്മാരെ തൽസമയം അറിയിക്കുന്നതിനും, അവരെ ഭാഗഭാക് ആക്കുന്നതിനും ഡിജിറ്റൽ ഇന്ത്യയിൽ അർത്ഥപൂർണ്ണമായി പങ്കെടുക്കുവാനും വേണ്ട നിപുണതയും പരിശീലനവും നൽകുന്നതിലും ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ട്.

ഡിജിറ്റൽ വിഷയത്തിൽ ഒതുങ്ങാതെ മുഴുവൻ സമൂഹത്തെയും സർവ്വതല സ്പർശിയാക്കാൻ കെൽപ്പുള്ള വലിയ സംരംഭമാണ് ഡിജിറ്റൽ ഇന്ത്യ. ഡിജിറ്റൽ തുല്യത സാമൂഹിക സമത്വത്തിലേക്ക് നയിക്കുന്ന ശക്തിയായി മാറുന്നത് DIPയുടെ വലിയ ശക്തിയായിരിക്കും. DIP നമുക്ക് നൽകുന്നത് കേവലമായ വാഗ്ദാനം മാത്രമല്ല, മുഴുവൻ ഇന്ത്യക്കും ഒരു സമ്മോഹകമായ അവസരം പ്രദാനം ചെയ്യപ്പെടുകയാണ്. ഈ ദർശനം യാഥാർത്ഥ്യമാക്കുന്നതിന് നമ്മളിലും നമ്മുടെ രീതികളിലും സംസ്കാരത്തിലും പരിവർത്തനം ആവശ്യമായിരിക്കുന്നു. DIP അതിനും ഹേതുഭൂതമാകുന്നു എന്നതും അതിന്റെ മറ്റൊരു സവിശേഷതയാണ്!

DIP അതിന്റെ ആത്യന്തിക ലക്ഷ്യങ്ങൾ നേടുമ്പോൾ, ഇന്ത്യ അതിന്റെ ആഗോള മാതൃകാപരമായ പാരമ്പര്യത്തിൽ എത്തുകയും സമ്പദ് വ്യവസ്ഥ സുഭദ്രമാവുകയും ദേശീയ വളർച്ച സുസ്ഥിരമാവുകയും ചെയ്യും എന്നത് ആത്മാവിശ്വാസത്തോടെ തറപ്പിച്ച് പറയാൻ കഴിയും. ഇന്ത്യയുടെ ഭാവി ശോഭനമാകുന്നു.

**യോജന,
ഫെബ്രുവരി 2015.**



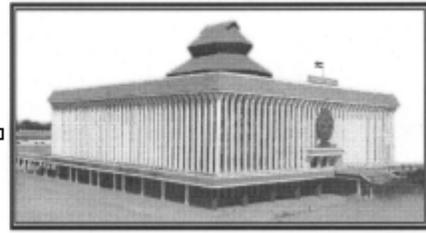
Development versus Environment - A Case of India

Julie. P. Lazar

The question of economic development versus environment is a widely debated issue among the nations. Post industrialization scenario points out the strong linkage between environment and development. Development without a negative externality on the environment is considered as untenable. The environmental pollution and indiscriminate use of natural resources poses danger to the environment and health of the people in the country. Serious environmental problems such as disturbance in the ecosystem, climate change, water and air pollution, rising sea levels, global warming and so on can be seen as the unintended consequences of the development process.

India has resorted to planned economic development since independence. For attaining rapid economic progress and for improving the life of its people, India has given due stress on development of its agrarian and industrial sectors through its Five Year Plans. India's First Five Year Plan aimed at economic stabilization and for attaining self sufficiency in the agrarian sector. The Second Five Year Plan initiated structural transformation with an emphasis on heavy industrialization. The first two plans laid the foundation for development planning in India. Other plans were devised so as to develop agriculture, industry, service sectors, overcome the issues of poverty and unemployment and to attain inclusive growth. Environmental issues were completely overlooked during the first two decades of economic development. In early 1970s the Government realized the need for economic protection as an integral part of economic policy. The Planning Commission in its Approach Paper to the 12th Five year Plan points out that economic development will be sustainable only if it is pursued in a manner which protects the environment. Managing the Environment and Ecology with the following five components is one of the 12 strategy challenges of the plan land, mining, and forest rights, mitigation and adaptation strategy for climate change, waste management and pollution abatement, degradation of forests and loss of biodiversity and issues of environment sustainability.

The economic development of India particularly in the post globalization period has been instrumental in environmental degradation. The increasing industrialization, urbanization, intensive agriculture, transportation advancements, consumerism and unplanned development are the factors



which threaten and cause adverse impact on the environment of the country. Compared to developed nations, India is much more vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to their low capacity to adapt and their disproportionate dependency on natural resources for welfare.

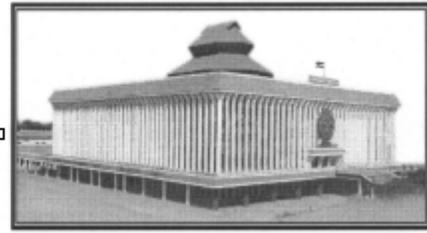
Objective

The paper examines the influence of development on environment in India. India’s Growth Performance India’s GNI at Factor Cost (current prices) has marked an increase from Rs 9995 crore in 1950-51 to Rs 7185159 crore in 2010-11. The NNI at Factor Cost has increased to Rs 6422359 crore in 2010-11. The per capita NNI has increased from Rs 264 in 1950-51 to Rs 54151 in 2010-11. The share of agriculture in India’s GDP has declined and there is a significant increase in the shares of industrial and service sectors. The intensive agriculture and the use of chemicals and fertilizers and adoption of advanced technology had made rapid strides in agricultural scenario of the country. Industrial performance has made considerable progress with the second five year plan and the progress has been accelerated with the new industrial policy of 1991. The service sector is the largest contributor to India’s GDP with a share of around 55 percent. The green revolution, industrialization and the service sector advancement have often a negative impact on the environment.

Table-1 - GNI and NNI at Current Prices India

Year	GNI at Factor Cost (Rs in crores)	NNI at Factor Cost (Rs in crores)	Per Capita NNI (Rs)
1950-51	9995	9464	264
1970-71	44098	41294	763
1980-81	137183	125761	10712
1990-91	524268	471618	5621
2000-01	1969249	2074858	17295
2010-11	7185159	6422359	54151

Source: Government of India, Economic Survey 2012-13



Demographic Trends in India

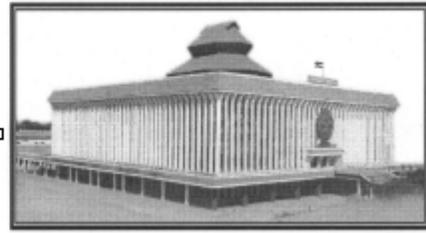
Table-2 - Demographic Trends in India

Year	Population (crore)	Decadal growth rate (percent)	Density of population (people per Sq km)	Sex Ratio (females per1000 males)	Literacy Rate(percent)
1901	23.83		77	972	
1951	36.10	13.31	117	946	18.33
1961	43.92	21.64	142	941	28.3
1971	54.8	24.80	177	930	34.45
1981	68.3	24.66	216	934	43.57
1991	84.3	23.86	267	927	52.27
2001	102.7	21.54	324	933	64.83
2011	121.02	17.64	382	940	74.04

India with a population of 1210.2 million (census 2011) is almost equal to the combined population of U.S.A., Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Japan put together. India with only 2.4 percent of world’s surface area accounts for world’s 17.5 per cent population . The population of most populous state Uttar Pradesh is larger than population of Brazil. The decadal population growth rate increased from 13.31 percent in 1951 to 24.66 percent in 1981. Thereafter there is a decline. Since independence the decline in decadal population growth rate is highest in India during 2001-2011. The density of population in India is 382, with Bihar having the highest density of 1102 people per Sq kilometer and Arunachal Pradesh with lowest density. The Birth rate in 2011 is 21.8 and death rate is 7.1.

Table-3 - GDP at Factor Cost by Industry of Origin
(at Current Prices- Rs in crores)

Head	1950-51	1970-71	1990-91	2000-01	2010-11
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining	5274	19086	198166	506476	1503040
Manufacturing, construction, electricity gas and water supply	1346	8622	127079	474323	1807212



Trade ,Hotels, Transport and Communication	968	5627	100318	441785	1774708
Financing, insurance, real estate and business service	1254	5579	64598	274940	1165901
Community social personal service	1115	5315	70019	294459	1016112

Source: Government of India, Economic Survey 2012-13

Urbanisation

There is an increasing trend towards urbanization in the country. The rural urban demographic divide has been narrowing down during the period of planned economic development. The rural population increased at an average growth rate of 2.65 percent, an increase of 4 times from 1901 to 2011. The growth of urban population during the period was at average growth rate of 12.33 percent, an increase of 15 times during the same period. First time since independence the absolute increase in population has been more in urban than rural areas. The increase in urban population is attributed to migration from rural to urban areas, inclusion of new areas under urban and natural increase in urban areas.

Table-4 - Rural and Urban Population in India

Year	Rural (in millions)	Urban (in millions)	Total (in millions)	Rural In %	Urban In %
1901	212.5	25.9	238.4	89.1	10.9
1921	223.2	28.1	251.3	88.8	11.2
1951	298.7	62.4	361.1	82.7	17.3
1991	628.7	217.2	846.3	74.3	25.7
2001	742.5	286.2	1028.7	72.2	27.8
2011	833.1	377.1	1210.2	68.8	31.2

Vehicle traffic

The increasing vehicles in the country, enhances air pollution, fuel consumption traffic jams and demands for road construction- often at the cost of agricultural land. The number of registered motor vehicles has increased at a CAGR of 10.8 percent during the period 2011/1951.

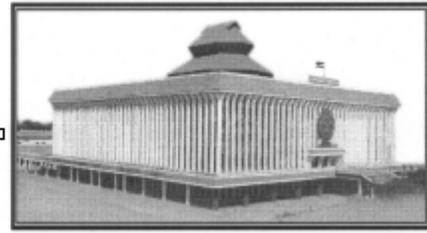


Table 5 - Total number of registered Motor vehicles in India

	All vehicles	2 Wheelers	Cars, Jeep	Bus	Goods vehicles	Others
1951	306	27	159	34	82	4
1961	665	88	310	57	168	42
1971	1865	576	682	92	322	113
981	5391	2618	1160	162	554	897
1991	21374	14200	2954	331	1350	2533
2001	54991	38556	7058	634	2948	5795
2005	81499	58799	10320	892	4031	7457
2006	89618	64743	11526	992	4436	7921
2007	96707	69129	12649	1350	5119	8460
2008	105353	75336	13950	1427	5601	9039
2009	114951	82402	15313	1486	5601	9710
2010	127746	91598	17109	1527	6432	11080
2011	141866	101865	19231	1604	7064	12102
CAGR 2011/1951	10.8	14.7	8.3	6.6	7.7	14.3
CAGR 2011/2005	9.7	9.6	10.9	10.2	9.8	8.4

Source: Government of India, Road Transport Year Book relevant Volumes

Changes in consumption pattern

Human wants are never ending. Population growth increases the need to produce consumer products and this in turn, intensifies the trend to over-exploit and misuse environmental resources. The share of income on food consumption is on the decline in India. The young population with increased income and easy financial options are the major drivers of India's consumer industry. The intense competition, emergence of new companies, state of art models, price discounts, exchange schemes have increased consumption and replacement of consumer durables classified as white goods, brown goods and consumer electronics. The generation of e- waste in form CDs, mobile phones and other electronic accessories is a matter of concern to all the nations of the world.

Energy generation and consumption

The growth in population, industrialization and increased reliance on technology in agriculture has resulted in accelerating the energy production and consumption in the country. This increase is expected to continue in the future. India mainly relies on conventional sources of energy and its indiscriminate use pollutes the environment. Burning of fossil fuels adds a large amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and increases air pollution. Two thirds of Indian population use firewood, crop residue, cow dung or coal as fuel. The coal production in million tonnes increased from 72.95 in 1970-71 to 532.69 in 2010-11 an increase of CAGR of 4.97 percent.



The crude petroleum production increased at a CAGR of 4.26 percent in 2011/1971. CAGR of natural gas production and electricity is 9.14 percent and 4.04 percent respectively during the period. Per capita energy consumption (KWH) increased from 1204.39 in 1970-71 to 4816.44 in 2010-11, an increase of CAGR of 3.44 percent. Of the electricity generation of 844,846 gigawatt/hour in 2010-11, 704,323 is contributed by Thermal power, 114,257 is contributed by Hydropower and 26,266 is contributed by nuclear power. The bulk of commercial energy comes from the burning of fossil fuels viz. coal and lignite in solid form, petroleum in liquid form and natural gas in gaseous form.

Degradation of environment

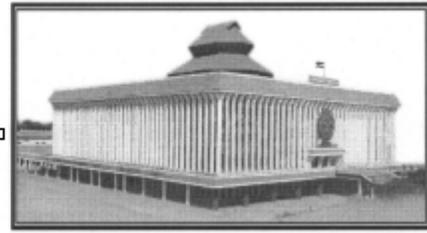
Along with the rapid development, the Indian Economy faces certain key environmental challenges - climate change, land degradation, air pollution and water security. World Bank in the report, “Diagnostic Assessment of Select Environmental Challenges in India” has pointed out that environmental degradation costs India about Rs.3.75 trillion (\$80 billion) annually equivalent to 5.7 percent of the India’s GDP - with air pollution being a major contributor.

Land degradation

India supports approximately 17.5 percent of the world’s human beings and 20 percent of livestock population on a mere 2.4 percent of the world’s geographical area. The pressure on the country’s land resources is obvious. The competing uses of land for forestry, agriculture, pastures, human settlements, and industries exert an enormous pressure on the country’s finite land resources. This is mainly due to the fact the country has not been implementing a well-defined integrated land use policy, and land management has largely been unscientific and arbitrary both of which have resulted in the current phase of degradation.

The direct and indirect causes of land degradation are linked - limited land resources and an increase in population. They combine to produce land shortages, resulting in small farms, low production per person and increasing landlessness whose consequence in term, is poverty. Land shortage and poverty, taken together, lead to non-sustainable land management practices, the direct causes of degradation. Around 32 per cent of India’s total land area is affected by land degradation and 25 percent of the country’s geographical area is undergoing desertification. Degradation has severe implications for livelihood and food security for millions of people living in these heavily populated areas, Degradation of land is attributed to unsustainable agricultural practices, diversion of land to development programmes, industrial effluents, mining and deforestation. Intensive agriculture and irrigation contribute to land degradation particularly salination, alkalization and water logging.

According to the National Commission on Floods, the area prone to floods in the country was about 40 million hectares, out of which 80 percent, i.e., estimated 32 million hectares could



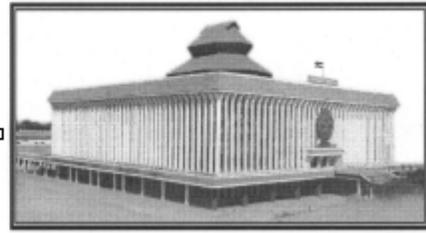
be provided a reasonable degree of protection. Around 68 percent of the country is prone to drought in varying degrees. India witnessed a severe drought which affected 300 million people, 150 million cattle and reduced food grain production by 29million tons. The entire country was declared drought-hit in the years 1966, 1972, 1979, 1987 and 2002. India is well known as one of the 12 mega diversity zones of the world with 7 percent of total biodiversity. On account of soil degradation and erosion nearly half of country's lands are degraded.

Air pollution

Air pollution is a complex issue, fuelled by multiple sources ranging from - vehicle exhaust, re suspended dust on the roads due to vehicle movements, industrial flumes, construction debris, garbage burning, domestic cooking and heating, and some seasonal sources such as agricultural field residue burning, dust storms and sea salt. The increased movement of vehicles has emissions of carbon monoxide beyond the permissible levels. The increased nitrogen oxide emissions on account of increased diesel vehicles causes air pollution and health problems. Studies point out that vehicles running on CNG in India are readapted and cause high rates of potentially hazardous methane carbonyl emissions. Air pollution is responsible for increasing the mortality and morbidity cases in the Indian cities. Studies point out that in terms of air pollution, Bangalore is worse than Shanghai and Beijing is better than Mumbai and air pollution in Ludhiana, is higher than Los Angeles. A recent study by Central Pollution Control Board (Delhi, India) has declared Delhi as the "Asthma Capital" of India. It is noted that Delhi's air pollution is up by 5 times since 2004. Accelerating growth in the transport sector, a booming construction industry, and a growing industrial sector are responsible for worsening air pollution in Indian cities. Air quality levels have deteriorated in most large cities in India, with Respiratory suspended particulate matter (RSPM) and suspended particulate matter (SPM) standing out as major pollutants. Almost 83 per cent cities showed violation of RSPM standards in 2009- 10. And the capital is among the worst performers. A US research has revealed that India has the most polluted air ahead of China. Environment Performance Index (EPI 2014) has put India in 155th place with score 31.23 out of maximum 100 points. India is behind neighbors, Pakistan and Nepal. According to a recent WHO survey, across the G-20 economies it is pointed out that 13 of the 20 most polluted cities are in India. TERI Environmental Survey 2013 conducted with a sample size of 4,039 respondents in six major cities, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai has noted that transport sector is a major contributor of air pollution in Chennai, Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai. Factories and Construction activities occupied the first place among the respondents of Bangalore and Hyderabad.

Water Scarcity and Water Pollution

Access to safe drinking water is an essential prerequisite of the individuals. Water is mainly used by agriculture followed by domestic use and by industries. Census 2011



points out only 46.6 percent of the households in India. have drinking water in their premises, 35.8 percent near their homes and 17.6 percent have water only about 500m to 1000m away from their homes. With the increase in population, water scarcity is not far away. It is pointed out that by 2050, 22 percent of the geographical area of the country and 17 percent of the population will face scarcity of water. The per capita water availability in the country has declined from 1816 cubic meters in 2001 to 1545 cubic meters in 2011 and is expected to decline to 1235 cubic meters in 2050.

Quality of available water is a matter of concern. An UN study report points out that contaminated and polluted water kills more people than all forms of violence including war. In India, almost all surface water resources are contaminated and unfit for human consumption. The growing population and the increased demand for food and shortage of agricultural land have intensified the cropping pattern. The intensive use of land, with increased use of fertilizers and pesticides to enhance productivity and production has deteriorating affect on the land and water resources. The pesticides and fertilizers flow into the water bodies, and cause serious damage to humans, aquatic animals and plants. The discharge of untreated wastes from various quarters, industrial intoxicants and so on poses grave threat to the surface water.

The ground water is affected by arsenic, fluoride and other chemical fertilizers and pesticides. 90 percent of water discharge in developing countries is untreated contributing to 2.2 million deaths due to diarrheal diseases. The increasing pollution of rivers, lakes and other water bodies has deteriorating effects on the health of the community and spreads infectious diseases. Eighty percent of country's urban waste ends up in rivers. The holy river Ganges is dying due to increased pollution. In India fecal coliform - a bacteria causes increased pollution due to lack of proper sanitation facilities. It is pointed out that 49.2 percent of the people of India defecate in open. Diseases like hepatitis, cholera, diarrhea, typhoid, amoebic dysentery, skin infections are some of the diseases associated with poor water quality. The impact of polluted drinking water has adverse effect on the poor.

Global warming

Global warming is likely to cause widespread economic, social and environmental destruction over the next century. A recent study predicts that harvest will decline by more than 30 percent in India and Pakistan. Rising seas may threaten the lives of millions in developing countries. The impact of global warming is immeasurable and uncertain. The increasing use of air conditioners, refrigerators depletes the ozone layer which in turn leads to climate changes and health issues like cancer. The mobile towers pose the risk of increased radiation in the atmosphere.

An important feature of global warming is climate change resulting in change in rainfall pattern, precipitation levels, water availability, melting of ice, and depletion of ozone. The climate change, rising heat has increased the health problems of the people. Researches point out that Indian



summer-monsoon rainfall is likely to fail much more frequently under global warming in the coming two centuries. The effects of these unprecedented changes would be extremely detrimental to India's economy which relies heavily on the monsoon season to bring fresh water to the farms. India has become highly vulnerable to climate-related disasters. The Natural Hazards Risk Atlas 2011 compiled by the World Bank and other international agencies ranks points out that India in the highest risk category along with six other countries (Mexico, Philippines, Turkey, Indonesia, Italy, and Canada).

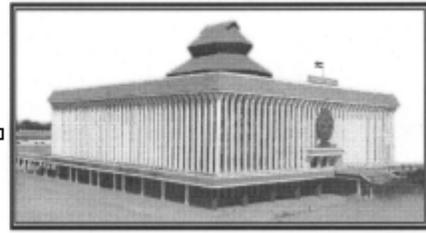
Suggestions

1. Give stress on 3 R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
2. Impose taxes to yield positive environmental benefits and to reduce negative impact
3. Policies and measures to reduce particulate matter to control air pollution.
4. Green growth aiming to achieve a harmony between economic growth and environmental sustainability.
5. Increase the dependence on renewable energy sources.
6. Increased research on measures to dispose e-waste in an efficient manner.
7. Coordination between different levels of government, institutions, NGOs and the public to reduce the harm to the environment.

Conclusion

Environmental resources like clean air, fresh water, forests, land and biodiversity are valuable not just ecologically but also economically. India should consider economic development and environmental protection as complementary aims not as conflicting goals. India should aim at green growth to achieve a harmony between economic growth and environmental sustainability in the long-term and for all round human development. Economic development can provide a solid foundation for environmental protection efforts, enabling Indian government to take a better care of their ecosystems, and equip them financially and technologically for the fight against environment degradation. Indian economic policy should ensure faster and greener growth.

**SOUTHERN ECONOMIST,
FEBRUARY 1, 2015.**



Urban Informal Sector: The Challenges

I. Satya Sundaram

Growing urbanization is often considered as an index of economy's growing strength and modernization. Urbanization acts as an impetus to economic growth. However, urbanization too throws not a few challenges. The growth of informal sector in urban India has created some serious problems. No doubt, the urban informal sector is providing employment to a large number of people. But, these people face insecurity, and pitiable working conditions, as the informal sector remains unregulated.

The present book's focus is on the implications of growing urban informal sector. It is a case study relating to brick-kiln activities surrounding area of Gulbarga and Dharwad cities of North Karnataka region. North Karnataka consists of both backward and developed regions. The formal sector fails to provide employment opportunities to the surplus labour force. Hence, the growing importance of urban informal sector. There are 43.26 crore unorganized workers in India.

Some have termed informal sector as one consisting of all units outside the public and private corporate sector which employed five or less workers. The fact is, units in informal sector have been performing below potential due to lack of adequate and low cost financing, rising input costs, competition from imports, and an unfavorable business environment in general as observed by the Economic Survey 2013-14. Studies show that minimum wages are paid but without meeting most of the conditions related to payment of minimum wages.

The author has undertaken survey of brick manufacturers in Gulbarga and Dharwad. A sample of 110 brick manufacturing units of Gulbarga and an equal number from Dharwad has been selected for the study. In the study area, most of the brick manufacturers want to expand their business, and adopt improved methods of production. But, some problems are there. The labour in informal sector was found to be greatly characterized by low and casual wages during the period of investigation.

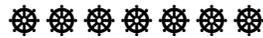
FOCUS

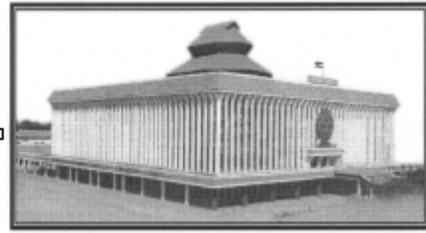


Of course, there is need for labour transfer from informal to formal sector in order to ensure better service conditions. Growth in labour productivity is also important. The informal workers ought to have access to common property resources. The rural non-farm sector should be strengthened through better education and training for workers.

The book contains a rich review of literature on the subject. It is useful to policy makers interested in modernizing.

**SOUTHERN ECONOMIST,
FEBRUARY 1, 2015.**





LOKSABHA

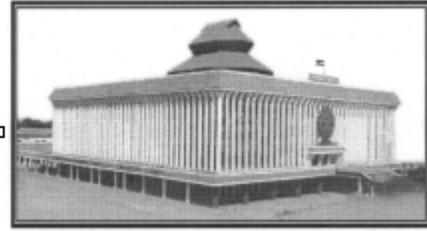
RESUME OF WORK TRANSACTED BY THE LOKSABHA FROM 24TH NOVEMBER, 2014 TO 23RD DECEMBER, 2014

The Third Session commenced on 24 November 2014 and concluded on 23 December 2014. The House had a total of 22 sittings spread over 129 hours and 47 minutes.

On the first day of the Session, i.e. 24 November, three members, viz. Smt. Ranjanben Bhatt (Vadodara), Dr. (Smt.) Pritam Gopinath Munde (Beed) and Shri Tej Pratap Singh Yadav (Mainpuri) elected in bye-elections, took oath and signed the Roll of Members. Thereafter, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, introduced the newly inducted Ministers to the House.

Subsequently, the Hon'ble Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajan made obituary references on the passing away of Sarvashri Hemendra Chandra Singh and Kapil Krishna Thakur, sitting members of the Lok Sabha and Sarvashri Amitava Nandy, Dr. M.S. Sanjeevi Rao, Avaidyanath, Saifuddin Choudhury, Sanjay Singh Chauhan, Brahm Dutt, Murli Deora, all former members. The Hon'ble Speaker further made references to (i) the loss of lives of more than 120 persons and to several others missing in worst ever floods in Jammu and Kashmir in recent times, causing large scale destruction and devastation of property, crops and cattle; (ii) the loss of lives of 46 persons and injuries to several others in a high intensity cyclonic storm 'Hudhud' affecting the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh on 12 October 2014; and (iii) the loss of lives of 33 persons, mostly women and children and injuries to 28 others in a stampede during Dussehra celebrations at Patna. As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, members stood in silence for a short while and, thereafter, the House was adjourned for the day.

On 25th November, immediately after the commencement of the sitting, some members entered the well of the House demanding discussion on the issue of black money. This led to the disruption of the proceedings from 11.21a.m. to 12.00 p.m. and again from 12.59 p.m.



to 14.00 p.m. On 26th November, Shri Mallikarjun Kbarge and Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay made a submission regarding promises made by Government to bring black money stashed in foreign banks within 100 days and distribute the same to the citizens of India. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu responded to the submission.

After the Question Hour, the Hon'ble Speaker, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan made the following Observation regarding conduct of members in the House:

“Hon'ble Members, yesterday immediately after the House met, several members came to the Well of the House and started shouting slogans. Some members were also holding umbrellas with certain slogans written on them and they were displaying the same in the House. I strongly objected to this conduct yesterday and had said earlier also that such conduct was improper on the part of the members. However, they persisted with their disorderly conduct till 12.00 hours. Consequently, I had to adjourn the House. Even after the House reassembled, the said members persisted in their disorderly conduct and even resorted to hooting which is neither proper nor desirable.

I have been impressing upon the members time and again to maintain discipline and decorum in the House. I would like to draw the attention of the members to the norm of etiquette to be observed by them. I would not dwell much upon this but I would like to say that we have a number of rules such as Rule 349 and 352 for smooth conduct of business in the House. I feel that the House is aware of the provisions of Rule 349 sub-rules 11 and 16, which provide that while the House is sitting a member shall not display emblems, placards or any exhibits in the House as it is unbecoming of the members.

As a Speaker, I do not feel that I am saying any improper thing to you nor am I talking about any punishment for such conduct. What I am saying is that these rules have been framed by this House only and they have to be followed by us. Everybody knows that a number of visitors come to this House for watching proceedings here. We have made several strict rules for them as they have to deposit their belongings including goggles, wallets and many other things at the entry gate for security reasons. These are the norms of etiquette to be followed by them. We expect them to strictly follow these rules as these concerns with security of all of us. I feel that whatever rules we have framed for the security of this House have to be followed by all of us. No doubt there is a provision of punishment under these rules. However, all of us know that nobody likes a mother who scolds and punishes her child but the truth is that in the absence of any punishment the child becomes indisciplined.

In a democracy, everyone has a right to put forth one's viewpoint. From the onset of the session, I have been repeatedly saying that we should not exhibit placards, shout slogans and resort to hooting in the House. I once again request you to not compel me to resort to strict



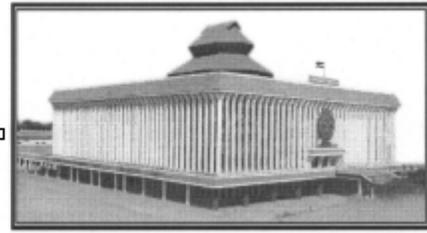
measures. We are prudent enough and we represent the people. We set a role model for others. So, I urge upon you to follow rules and observe norms to facilitate smooth conduct of business in this House.”

Later in the day, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge initiated a discussion under Rule 193 on the need to expedite the process of bringing back black money kept in foreign banks. Thirty members participated in the debate which lasted for 8 hours and 53 minutes, spreading over two days and concluded with a reply from the Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley.

The reported incident of forceful religious conversion in Uttar Pradesh was another issue which agitated the members during the Session. On 11 December, members of Opposition entered the well of the House during the Question Hour and disrupted proceedings. Thereafter, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav made submission regarding reported incident of conversion in Uttar Pradesh. Seven other members associated themselves with the issue. The Minister of State, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy responded to the submission. Later, Hon’ble Speaker informed the House that a notice has been received under Rule 193 from Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia regarding situation arising due to reported incidents of religious conversion. The discussion was allowed as a special case without any entry in the List of Business. Twenty-two members participated in the debate and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu replied at the end of the debate.

Besides, the above two issues already mentioned, disruptions in proceedings of the House were caused on other issues namely: (i) the communal statement made by Union Minister; (ii) Sahara diary issue; and (iii) the remarks made by a member of Parliament glorifying assassin of Mahatma Gandhi. More than three hours and 28 minutes of the time of the House was lost due to disruptions. However, the House compensated for the time lost by sitting late for about 17 hours and 30 minutes to transact important financial, legislative and other business.

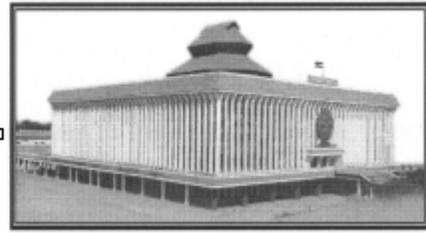
Apart from already mentioned issues, the House held debate on several other matters of urgent public importance under Rule 193. On 2 December 2014, Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo raised a discussion on the natural calamities in various parts of the country with special reference to rains and floods in Jammu and Kashmir, cyclone Hudhud in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and drought in Maharashtra. As many as 49 members took part in the discussion which continued for five days and concluded on 9 December, with the reply of the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Radha Mohan Singh. Another discussion was raised by Shri Sankar Prasad Datta on 9 December on the reported dilution of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. The discussion continued on 15 December, 18 December and 19 December 2014 and 41 members participated in the discussion. The Minister of Rural Development, Chaudhary Birender Singh replied to the debate.



Besides, members made use of the device of Calling Attention to raise issues of public importance and the attention of the concerned Ministers were drawn to the following issues: (i) problem regarding the abduction of and harassment meted out to Tamil Fishermen by Sri Lankan Navy and steps taken by the Government in this regard; (ii) the situation arising out of food adulteration in the country and steps taken by the Government in this regard; (iii) the situation arising due to hike in prices of life saving drugs and prevalence of spurious drugs resulting in serious health hazard; and (iv) the situation arising out of spread of Encephalitis in Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country and steps taken by the Government in this regard. In response, statements were made by the Ministers concerned.

Several Statements were made by the Ministers under Rule 372. Important among these were the Statements made by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on the issue of objectionable language used by the Union Minister; by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Commerce and Industry, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, regarding India's stand in the WTO; by the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Raj Nath Singh on, (i) the 'Incident in District Sukma', Chhattisgarh, (ii) the incident of sexual assault of a woman by a cab driver in Delhi, and (iii) the arrest by a youth running 'Twitter' handle on behalf of ISIS; by the Minister of External Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj regarding (i) the Prime Minister's recent visits abroad and (ii) 'Sydney Hostage Crisis'; by the Minister of Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhu regarding the incident which occurred at unmanned level crossing on North-Eastern Railway; by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal regarding Omission of Sprinter Dutee Chand from Commonwealth Games Squad.

In addition to the already mentioned submissions, members made other submissions on issues of urgent public importance like: (i) the abduction and killing of 40 Indians by ISIS in Iraq; (ii) the lack of proper connectivity and poor functioning of BSNL network in the country particularly in tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh and some districts in Odisha; (iii) the alleged destruction of a church in East Delhi due to fire prompting allegation of foul play by church authorities; (iv) regarding alleged attack on churches in Delhi and other parts of the country; (v) misbehaviour with a woman member of Parliament by local district administration during foundation stone laying ceremony for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Munger, Bihar; (vi) the inhuman treatment towards the martyrs' of Chhattisgarh Naxal Attack; (vii) the derogatory remarks made by a member during public rally in Kolkata; (viii) derogatory remarks made by a member outside the Parliament against the Prime Minister; (ix) the remarks made by a member in the House glorifying the assassin of the Father of the Nation; (x) reported misuse of Central Bureau of Investigation; (xi) the issue of Union Government acting against federal principles; and (xii) opening of CBSE schools on 25 December 2014 to celebrate Good Governance Day. The Ministers concerned responded to these Issues.



The House passed two resolutions unanimously during the Session. On 17 December, the Hon'ble Speaker made reference regarding tragic death of many school children and others in a gruesome terrorist attack in Peshawar, Pakistan on 16 December 2014. Thereafter, Hon'ble Speaker made the following resolution:

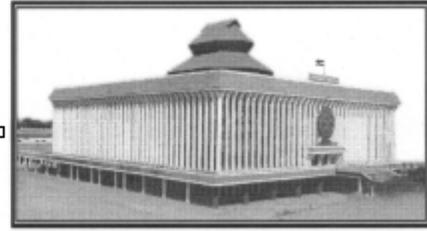
“The House having taken note of the inhuman killings of about 141 persons including 132 innocent children who had yet to see light of their lives, by the terrorists in a school in Peshawar, Pakistan on 16 December, 2014, expresses its shock, sense of deep outrage, profound sorrow and condemns this barbaric, senseless and cowardly terrorist attack and extends its heartfelt condolences to and sympathizes with the Parliament, the Government, the People of Pakistan, the bereaved families and the injured.

The House resolves that all terrorist attacks against innocent people, especially vulnerable children, should be condemned and calls upon all the nations and each and every person with all the energies at their command to fight against all acts of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. I hope the House agrees.”

The House agreed to the resolution unanimously.

On 19 December 2014, eighteen members made a submission regarding alleged grant of bail to master mind behind 26/11 Mumbai terror attack by a Pakistani anti-terror court. Five other members associated themselves with the submission. Responding to the submission, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu said that the entire House has spoken in one voice, and has reflected the mood of the nation. This in itself is a message to Pakistan. The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi informed the House that the message has been communicated to Pakistan in appropriate terms. He assured that the Government will be guided by the feelings of the House in this regard in its future course of action. Thereafter, the Speaker moved the following resolution:

“The Lok Sabha unanimously condemns the decision to grant bail to Zakiur Rahman Lakhvi, accused conspirator in the murder of 166 individuals in Mumbai on 26th November, 2008. We are concerned at the numerous delays in the prosecution and the apathetic attitude of the Government of Pakistan which has resulted in the grant of bail to an accused terrorist. We express the grave concern of the Indian people that just one day after the tragic killing of 145 innocent children and other persons in Peshawar, an accused terrorist could be released on bail by the same country. It seems that the lesson that there should be no compromise with terrorists has not been learnt.



The Lok Sabha calls upon the Government of Pakistan to proceed strongly with its declared intention to appeal the bail judgment, and requests the Government to ensure that on no account is such an individual permitted to be released.

The people of India attach the highest importance to bringing the perpetrators of the 26/11 attacks, their masters in Pakistan and their accomplices, to justice. We urge the Government of India to take every step in its power, including through its relations with other countries, to put pressure on Pakistan to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion. We reiterate the importance of Pakistan dismantling the infrastructure of terrorism in that country and ensuring that terrorists are not allowed to remain free to continue their evil activities against India and the countries of the region.”

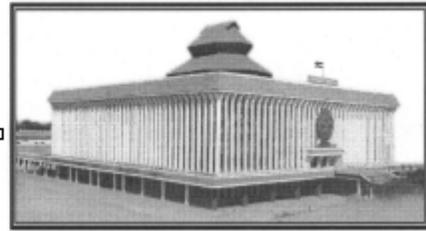
The House unanimously agreed.

During the Session, due to earlier mentioned adjournments and interruptions, the Question Hour was disrupted on several occasions. Out of the 440 Starred Questions that were listed, 103 could be orally answered on the floor of the House. The written replies to the remaining Starred Questions, along with 5058 Unstarred Questions, were laid on the Table of the House.

Two Half-an-Hour Discussions were raised on points arising out of the answers given by the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Minister of Rural Development on 17 and 19 December 2014, respectively. One raised by Dr. Kirit Somaiya was regarding ‘Plastic Hazards’ and the other by Shri Tathagata Satpathy, was regarding ‘Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)’. The concerned Ministers replied to the discussion.

The Hon’ble members raised 271 matters relating to their constituencies under Rule 377. In addition, 684 matters of urgent public importance were raised by the members after the Question Hour and after completion of formal business of the House in the evening.

During the Session, 64 Reports of Departmentally-Related Standing Committees (DRSCs), 48 original and 16 Action Taken Reports, were presented in the House. In so far as ethics matters are concerned, the Committee on Ethics presented its First Report on ‘Incorporation in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha of the rules regarding constitution of a Committee on Ethics, its functions and procedure to be followed by the Committee and procedure for making ethics complaints’. The Committee recommended that the rules regarding constitution of Committee on Ethics, its functions and procedure for making ethics complaints may be incorporated in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. It further recommended that a new chapter laying down the Procedure for Ethics complaint and rules specifying



the power of Speaker Lok Sabha, to refer a question of ethical and other misconduct involving a Member of Lok Sabha to the Committee on Ethics for examination, investigation and report be included in the Rules Book.

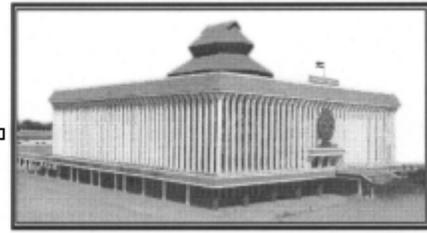
As regards Financial Business, the Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley presented a statement showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2014-15 in the House on 8 December. The Demands were discussed and voted in full on 10 December 2014 and the relevant Appropriation Bill was passed on the same day.

Coming to the Legislative Business, 16 Government Bills were introduced in the Lok Sabha. In all, 18 Government Bills were passed by the House during the Session. Some of the important Bills passed by the House were: (i) Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Bill, 2014; (ii) The School of Planning and Architecture Bill, 2014; (iii) The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2014; (iv) the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2014; (v) the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment), Bill 2014; and (vi) The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

The Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Bill, 2014 sought to amend the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 to provide that when there is no Leader of Opposition recognised as such in the House of the People, the Leader of the single largest Opposition Party in the House of the People shall be a Member of the Committee recommending a panel of officers to the Central Government for appointment of the Director of the Delhi Special Police Establishment. The Bill also provides that no appointment of a Director shall be invalid merely by reason of any vacancy or absence of a member in the Committee.

The School of Planning and Architecture Bill, 2014 sought to confer the status of “institution of national importance” on the Schools of Planning and Architecture at New Delhi, Bhopal and Vijayawada; and to establish a Council for Schools of Planning and Architecture similar to the Indian Institute of Technology and the National Institute of Technology to advise the Central Government on policy matter in the field of architecture and planning.

The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2014 sought to provide for re-allocation of coal mines, whose allocation was cancelled by the Supreme Court vide judgment dated 25.8.2014 read with its order dated 24.9.2014, and vesting of the right, title and interest in and over the land and mine infrastructure together with mining leases to successful bidders and allottees with a view



to ensure continuity in coal mining operations and production of coal, and for promoting optimum utilisation of coal resources consistent with the requirement of the country in national interest.

The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2014 sought to include the premises of Delhi Metro Railway Corporation, Municipal Corporations of Delhi and other public companies of National Capital Territory of Delhi within the meaning of public premises in order to enable smooth and speedy eviction of unauthorised occupants from the public premises in a time-bound manner; and to include within the meaning of public premises any premises belonging to, or taken on lease by, or on behalf of, any company in which not less than fifty-one per cent of the paid-up capital is held partly by the Central Government and partly by one or more State Governments.

The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2014 sought to amend the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act, 2011 to extend the provisions of the Act for a period of three years from 1.1.2015 to 31.12.2017.

The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2014 sought to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, with a view to regulating the operation and licensing of e-rickshaws and e-carts and to bring them under the ambit of Motor Vehicles Act.

In the sphere of Private Members' Business, 68 Private Members Bills were introduced during the Third Session. Two Bills, viz. the Central Himalayan States Development Council Bill, 2014, introduced by Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank on 11 July 2014 and the Acid (Control) Bill, 2014 introduced by Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki on 8 August 2014 during the Second Session, were further discussed and later withdrawn by the leave of the House. The Senior Citizens (Provision of Geriatric and Dementia Care) Bill, 2014, introduced by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab on 11 July 2014, was discussed further on 12 December 2014 but the discussion on the Bill remained inconclusive.

Two Private Members' Resolutions were discussed by the House during the Session. The Resolution urging the Government for the implementation of the recommendation of the National Commission on Farmers, moved by Shri Raju Shetti in the Second Session, was discussed further on 5 and 19 December 2014 and later withdrawn by the leave of the House. Another Resolution, moved by Shri C.R. Patil on 19 December, urging the Government for a scheme for development of technical skills amongst youth to enable them to contribute towards making India a modern country and achieving the goal of 'Make in India', remained part discussed.



During the Session, apart from three members who took oath on the first day of the Session, two newly elected members, Shri Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, representing the Medak Constituency of Telangana and Smt. Pratyusha Rajeshwari Singh, representing the Kandhamal constituency of Odisha took oath and signed the Roll of Members.

On 12th December, Hon'ble Speaker, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan informed the House that under Rule 9(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, Shri K.H. Muniyappa and Dr. P. Venugopal have been nominated as members of the Panel of Chairpersons, Lok Sabha in place of Prof. K. V. Thomas and the vacancy caused by appointment of Dr. N. Thambiduari as Deputy Speaker respectively.

During the Session, in addition to the obituary references made by the Speaker, on the first day of the Session, references were also made on the demise of Sarvashri Gurcharan Singh Galib, Lakshman Mallick, Rambadan, Ananda Pathak, Jarbom Gamlin, Abdul Rehman Antulay, Udaysingrao Gaikwad, Anna Joshi and H.A. Dora, all former members.

Further references were made to (i) the loss of lives of more than 170 people in the devastating floods in the North-Eastern States of Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh; (ii) reported loss of lives of 14 personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force including two officers in an ambush by Naxals in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh; and (iii) loss of lives of eight Army personnel, three policemen and two civilians in four serial terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Hon'ble Speaker also made references to the Sixth anniversary of the terrorist attack in Mumbai and 30th Anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy; and on the occasion of World AIDS Day (1 December) and Human Rights Day (10 December).

On 12th December, the Hon'ble Speaker made a reference to the thirteenth anniversary of terrorist attack on Parliament House which took place on 13 December 2001. At a solemn function held in Parliament House on 13 December 2014, the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and the Lok Sabha Speaker, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan led the nation in paying tributes to those who sacrificed their lives in the terrorist attack on Parliament. The Indian Red Cross Society organised a blood donation camp in the Parliament House on the occasion. Further, a reference was also made to the declaration of 21 June as 'International Yoga Day' by United Nations General Assembly at their 69th Session.



On 25 November 2014, the Hon'ble Speaker on behalf of the House, congratulated (i) the ISRO Scientists for successful placement of Mangalyan in Mars Orbit making India as the first country to be successful on its maiden Mars Mission; (ii) Shri Kailash Satyarthi, the renowned children's right activist for winning the Nobel Peace Prize for the year 2014 along with Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan; (iii) the Indian Contingent for winning 11 gold, 10 silver and 36 bronze medals in the Seventeenth Asian Games 2014, held in Incheon, South Korea; (iv) tennis star Sania Mirza for winning the WTA Women's Doubles title in Singapore on 26 October 2014; (v) badminton stars Saina Nehwal and Kidambi Srikanth for winning Women's and Men's Single titles, respectively, at China Open Super Series on 16 November 2014 in Fuzou, China; and (vi) golfer Rashid Khan for winning the Chiangmai Golf Classic Tournament in Chiangmai, Thailand.

On 1st December, the Hon'ble Speaker on behalf of the House felicitated shuttler P.Y. Sindhu for winning the Women's Singles title at Macau Open Grand Prix Gold Tournament on 30 November 2014 in Macau, China. On 11 December, the Hon'ble Speaker on behalf of the House congratulated the visually impaired Cricket Team for winning the Blind Cricket World Cup, 2014 defeating Pakistan in the finals on 8 December 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa. On 18 December 2014, the Hon'ble Speaker on behalf of the House congratulated the team of Scientists & Technologists of ISRO for successful launch of the rocket "GSLV Mk.III" from Sriharikota.

As in the past, functions were held under the auspices of Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to mark birth anniversaries of the illustrious leaders whose portraits adorn the walls of the Central Hall. The Speaker Lok Sabha, Ministers, Members of Parliament and other dignitaries paid floral tributes on these occasions. Besides, floral tribute functions were held in the Central Hall of Parliament on the birth anniversaries of the former deceased Speakers of Lok Sabha, Sardar Hukum Singh (30 August); Shri G.M.C. Balayogi (1 October); Shri Bali Ram Bhagat (7 October) and Shri G.V. Mavalankar (27 November). Booklets containing the profile of the former Speakers, brought out in Hindi and English by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, were distributed to the dignitaries present on the occasion.

A Parliamentary Delegation led by His Excellency, Mr. Valeriu Stefan Zgonea, President of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of Romania graced the Special Box on 8 December 2014. Welcoming the distinguished guest, the Speaker extended the greetings of the House to the Parliament, the Government and the people of Romania and wished them a happy and fruitful stay in India.

On 22 December, a Seminar on the theme "*Women are Central to India's Development*" was held in Parliament House Annexe. The Seminar, inaugurated by Hon'ble Speaker, was hosted by the India Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary



Association (CPA) in which women members of the Parliament of India and the State Legislatures deliberated on the following themes: (i) Health and status of women in India and addressing the challenges of nutrition, health care and family planning; and (ii) Increased engagement of women through local self governments and legislature at the State and National level.

The Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training continued to organise various Courses and Programmes. The Bureau organised the Call-on meetings with the Hon'ble Speaker for students: (i) from Jammu and Kashmir visiting Delhi under the National Integration and Educational Tours; (ii) Pandit Kunjilal Dubey Rashtriya Sansadiya Vidyapeeth, Bhopal; and (iii) Hartmann College, Bareilly.

An Orientation Programme for newly-elected members of the Sixth Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly was organised jointly by the BPST and Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly at Naharlagun, Itanagar on 15 and 16 September 2014. The programme, inaugurated by Shri Nabam Tuki, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, was attended by 33 members of Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly. Another Orientation Programme for newly-elected members of the Odisha Legislative Assembly was organised jointly by the BPST and Odisha Legislative Assembly at Bhubaneswar on 7 and 8 November 2014. The Hon'ble Speaker of Odisha Legislative Assembly, Shri Niranjan Pujari inaugurated the Programme which was attended by 86 members of the Odisha Legislative Assembly.

Two Computer Training Programmes were organised from 15 to 19 December 2014 for (i) members of Parliament; and (ii) the staff of the members of Parliament. The 30th Parliamentary Internship Programme for Foreign Parliamentary Officials was organised from 10 November to 9 December 2014. The Programme, inaugurated by the Hon'ble Speaker, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, was attended by 42 parliamentary officials from 21 countries.

The Bureau organised 10 International Study Visits in which there were 103 participants. Besides, 46 Study Visits were organised for educational and other institutions from within the country covering 2,418 participants.

Apart from these, Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Process and Procedures were organised by the Bureau for the Probationers of: (i) Indian Information Service; (ii) the Indian Railways Store Service; (iii) the Indian Railways Traffic Service; (iv) the Indian Railways



Personnel Service; (v) the Indian Police Service; and (vi) the Sr. Accounts/Audit Officers and Accounts/Audit Officers from the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

During the period, two Training Programmes were organised for: (i) Officials of Lok Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats of Research, Reference, Library and Information Service; (ii) security officials of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats. Besides, a Management Development Programme for Middle level Officers of Lok Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats was also organised by the Bureau. Further, eight Professional Development programmes for/by the Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat were organised from time to time by the Bureau.

On the concluding day of the Session, the Lok Sabha Speaker, while delivering the Valedictory Address expressed thanks to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Deputy Speaker, members on the Panel of Chairmen, Leaders and Chief Whip of Parties and Groups and members for their cooperation in the completion of the business of the House. The Speaker also thanked the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha for the expert assistance rendered to her and the Officers and Staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for their dedicated and prompt service to the House. Besides, the Speaker thanked the media and allied agencies for their able assistance in the conduct of the proceedings of the House.

The Third Session of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die on 23 December 2014 after the playing of the National song. The Hon'ble President of India prorogued the Lok Sabha the same day.

⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘



Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly

RESUME OF WORK TRANSACTED BY THE HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FROM 5TH DECEMBER, 2014 TO 12TH DECEMBER, 2014

The 7th Session of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly commenced on 5th December 2014 in the Vidhan Sabha Bhawan at Tapovan (Dharamshala). The House met for 7 days and transacted the Business. The Session commenced with established convention of playing of the National Anthem. This being the Winter Session, major business before the House was presentation, consideration and passing of the Govt. Bills. The House also, had detailed discussion on the issues of illegal felling of trees in District Shimla and Chamba, stray dogs & monkey menace, and also centrally sponsored Rashtriya Uchtar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).

On the 5th December, 2014, the opening day, the Session commenced at 11.00 A.M., the House paid tributes to late Shri Dile Ram, former Member of Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, The Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Leader of Opposition and other Hon'ble Members including the Hon'ble Speaker, made obituary references to the departed soul. The House also paid obituary references to those departed souls, who lost their lives in terrorists attack in Jammu & Kashmir.

The Secretary, H.P. Vidhan Sabha laid on the Table of the House a copy each of message received from Rajya Sabha for Ratification of Constitution (One Hundred & Twenty One Amendment) Bill, 2014 along with bill and debate thereon.

The Question Hour remained lively throughout the Session. In all, 370 notices of Starred Questions were received, out of which 200 notices were admitted for reply. Similarly, 100 notices for written answer were received and 59 notices were admitted for written answer besides 51 notices of Starred Questions classified as Unstarred.

The Govt. apprised the House of the latest position of 22 issues of special mention under Rule-324. 3 notices of Calling Attention to the matters of urgent public importance under Rule 62



which were admitted and discussed. 5 motions under Rule 130, were also discussed. As regard to Private Members' Resolutions, 3 resolutions were discussed and out of three one was adopted by the House. 49 documents relating to Annual Administrative Reports, Annual Accounts/Audited Reports of various Autonomous Bodies/Corporations of the State Government and the Recruitment & Promotion Rules of various Departments/Corporations were laid on the Table of the House.

The Chief Minister and the Ministers made statements on various issues of public interest. The Himachal Pradesh Lokayukta Bill, 2014 (Bill No.6 of 2014) introduced by the House in its sitting held on 19th February, 2014 was withdrawn by the House.

As far Legislative Business is concerned, the following Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the Legislative Assembly:-

1. The Himachal Pradesh Advocates Welfare Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (Bill No.7 of 2014);
2. The Himachal Pradesh Tax on Luxuries (In Hotels and Lodging House) Second Amendment Bill, 2014 (Bill No. 8 of 2014);
3. The Himachal Pradesh Court Fees (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (Bill No. 9 of 2014);
4. The Himachal Pradesh Electricity Distribution Management Responsibility Bill, 2014 (Bill No. 10 of 2014);
5. The Himachal Pradesh Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (Bill No. 11 of 2014);
6. The Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (Bill No. 12 of 2014);
7. The Himachal Pradesh Technical University Bill, 2014 (Bill No. 13 of 2014);
8. The Abhilashi University (Establishment and Regulation) Bill, 2014 (Bill No. 14 of 2014);
9. The Himachal Pradesh Lokayukta Bill, 2014 (Bill No. 15 of 2014);
10. The Himachal Pradesh Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (Bill No. 16 of 2014); and
11. The Himachal Pradesh University (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (Bill No.17 of 2014).

FOCUS



Before the House adjourned sine-die, the Hon'ble Speaker expressed his thanks to both sides for their co-operation in the smooth conduct of the business of the House.

The House was adjourned sine-die by the Hon'ble Speaker on the 12th December, 2014, after playing of the National Song. The House was prorogued by Her Excellency, the Governor of Himachal Pradesh on the 15th December, 2014.





West Bengal Legislative Assembly

RESUME OF WORK TRANSACTED BY THE WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FROM 7TH NOVEMBER, 2014 TO 8TH DECEMBER, 2014

This eventful Session of total eleven days (from the 7th November, 2014 to the 20th November, 2014 and reconvened on the 8th December, 2014) witnessed the entire procedural devices being used by the representatives of people through Legislation, Calling Attention, Mention Cases, Zero Hour Mention, Question, Adjournment Motions etc. over a period of 51 hours 39 minutes.

The business transacted during this session are presented below in a nutshell:

OBITUARY REFERENCES

The House expressed its deep sympathy for the sad demise of the following persons who breathed their last recently:

- (i) Shri Sushi! Biswas, sitting Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly
- (ii) Shri Kapil Krishna Thakur, sitting Member of Parliament;
- (iii) Shri Sital Chandra Hembram, former Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly
- (iv) Shri Kiriti Bagdi, former Member of West Bengal legislative Assembly
- (v) Shri Sambhu Narayan Goswami, former Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly
- (vi) Shri Bachcha Mohan Roy, former Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly
- (vii) Shri Benoy Krishna Konar, former Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly
- (viii) Shri Amitava Nandy, former Member of Parliament
- (ix) Shri Saifuddin Choudhury, former Member of Parliament
- (x) Shri Sunil De, former Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly



- (xi) Shri Sadhan Kumar Chakraborty, former Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly
- (xii) Shri Shiba Nath Das, former Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly
- (xiii) Shri Ananda Prasad Pathak, former Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly and former Member of Parliament
- (xiv) Smt. Arati Dasgupta, former Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly
- (xv) Shri Samar Baora, former Member of West Bengal Legislative Assembly
- (xvi) Smt. Firoza Begum, Legendary Nazrulgeeti exponent

As is customary Members stood in silence for 2 (two) minutes as a mark of respect to the deceased.

The Secretary sent the message of condolence to the members of the bereaved family.

QUESTIONS

During this Session 782 Notices of Questions were received; 365 Questions including 275 Starred and 90 Unstarred Questions were admitted. Total no. of 258 Questions out of which 133 starred and 109 unstarred Questions were replied.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION

During this Session one Notice of Adjournment Motion was received but Hon'ble Speaker withheld his consent to the Motion.

CALLING ATTENTION

The procedural device of 'Calling Attention' to raise issues of urgent public importance was made use of by the Members. Attention of the concerned Ministers was drawn to several important issues regarding accidents, catastrophes and Government activities. During this Session 28 (twenty eight) Notices of Calling Attention were received. 7 (seven) Notices were admitted and four statements by the Ministers of respective Departments was made. Replies of rest three admitted Notices were sent direct to Members concerned.

LEGISLATION

During this Session 11 (eleven) Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House;



- i) The West Bengal University of Teachers' Training, Education, Planning and Administration Bill, 2014;
- ii) The Raiganj University Bill, 2014;
- iii) The Neotia University Bill, 2014;
- iv) The JIS University Bill, 2014;
- v) The West Bengal Panchayat (Second Amendment) Bill, 2014;
- vi) The West Bengal Krishi Viswavidyalaya Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2014;
- vii) The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2014;
- viii) The West Bengal Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2014;
- ix) The Amity University Bill, 2014;
- x) The University of Engineering and Management, Kolkata Bill, 2014; and
- xi) The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2014.

Apart from above, one Bill namely the West Bengal Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2014 was introduced, considered and referred to Select Committee. The Bill as reported by the Select Committee was also passed during this Session.

MENTION CASES

During this Session, the House devoted its attention to several issues of public interest through 'Mention Cases' and 'Zero Hour Mention'. The Speaker allowed 106 (one hundred and six) Members to raise 'Mention Cases' and 35 (thirty-five) Members to raise 'Zero Hour Mention' on different subjects relating to social and political issues.

PRIVILEGE ISSUE

During this Session one Notice of Breach of Privilege was received and it was rejected by the Speaker.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

During this Session, 3 (Three) Rules, 15 (fifteen) Reports and Accounts etc. and 1 (one) Report on Select Committee were laid.

OTHER BUSINESS

- (A) During this Session two Notices of Motion Under Rule 185 were received. One against the decision of Central Government regarding curtailment of the budget in MNREG Scheme up to 54% in West Bengal and another regarding



maintaining of communal harmony and peace in the State. Mr. Speaker admitted both Notices of Motion and the Motions were discussed and carried.

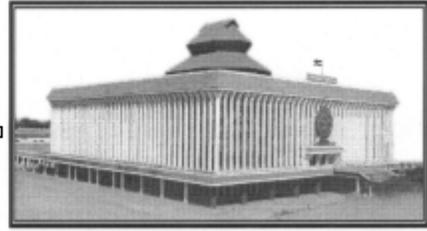
- (B) During this Session one statement was made by the Minister under Rule 346.
- (C) During this Session two Notices of Resolution under Rule 169 were received. First one regarding naming of proposed Airport located at Andal in the District of Burdwan as “Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport” and second one regarding repeal of the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993. Both the Resolutions were adopted.
- (D) During this Session three Notices of No-confidence Motion (Under Rule 199) were received. The first and second one were in order and admitted by Mr. Speaker and the third one was out of order. The leave was granted by the House to the first Motion and it was discussed and negatived. The second Motion was not taken up in the House since it was identical to the first Motion.
- (E) During this Session one Notice of Short Duration Discussions under rule 194 were received and Mr. Speaker disallowed the Notice.
- (F) One Message received from Rajya Sabha Secretariat for ratification of the amendment to the Constitution of India was reported to the House by the Secretary under Rule 181(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly.

VALEDICTORY SPEECH

The eventful session was concluded on the 8th December, 2014. The Session was marked by interesting debates, explanation and analysis of very high standard. At the conclusion of the Business of the Session, the Hon’ble Speaker made a valedictory speech before adjourning the House sine-die. In his valedictory address, Hon’ble Speaker thanked the Leader of the House, the Hon’ble Chief Minister, the Hon’ble leader of the Opposition, the Hon’ble Deputy Speaker, the Hon’ble Members of the Cabinet and Members of the House for their participation in all the business of the House and to all the representatives of Electronic Media and Press and all the Officers and Staff of the Assembly Secretariat.

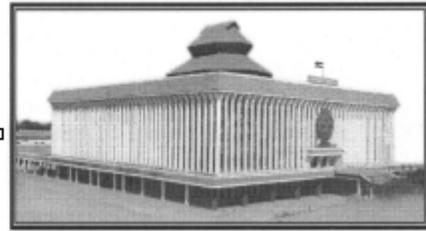
Dr. Partha Chatterjee, Minister-in-Charge of Parliamentary Affairs Department; Dr. Surjya Kanta Mishra, Leader of Opposition; Shri Md. Sohrab; Shri Biswanath Karak; Shri Subhas Naskar; Dr. Harka Bahadur Chettri; Shri Anandamoy Mondal; Shri Prabodh Chandra Sinha; Dr. Tarun Kati Naskar and Shri Sobhandeb Chattapadhyay, Chief Govt. Whip made their valedictory speeches also.

FOCUS



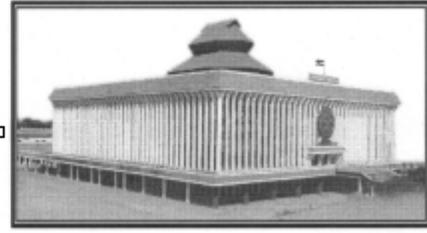
On the whole the Session passed off peacefully. The House adjourned sine die followed by prorogation with effect from the 8th December, 2014 after the conclusion of the sitting of the House on that day.





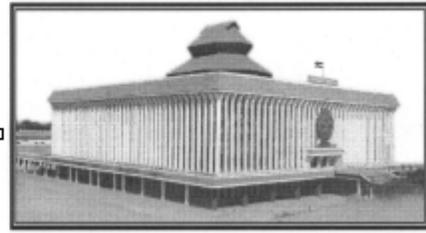
THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES IN SESSION DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2015

Sl No.	Name of Assembly/Council	Duration
1.	Rajyasabha	23.02.2015 - 08.03.2015
2.	Bihar Legislative Assembly	20.02.2015 - 01.04.2015
3.	Gujarat Legislative Assembly	23.02.2015
4.	Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly	11.02.2015
5.	Jharkhand Legislative Assembly	27.02.2015 - 28.02.2015
6.	Rajasthan Legislative Assembly	25.02.2015



Site Address of Legislative Bodies in India

Sl.No	Name of Assembly/Council	Site Address
1.	Loksabha	loksabha.nic.in
2.	Rajyasabha	rajyasabha.nic.in
3.	Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council	aplegislature.org
4.	Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly	aplegislature.org
5.	Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly	arunachalassembly.gov.in
6.	Assam Legislative Assembly	assamassembly.nic.in
7.	Bihar Legislative Assembly	vidhansabha.bih.nic.in
8.	Bihar Legislative Council	biharvidhanparishad.gov.in
9.	<u>Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly</u>	cgvidhansabha.gov.in
10.	<u>Delhi Legislative Assembly</u>	delhiassembly.nic.in
11.	<u>Goa Legislative Assembly</u>	goavidhansabha.gov.in
12.	Gujarat Legislative Assembly	gujaratassembly.gov.in
13.	Harayana Legislative Assembly	haryanaassembly.gov.in
14.	Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly	hpvidhansabha.nic.in
15.	Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly	jklegislativeassembly.nic.in
16.	Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Council	jklegislativecouncil.nic.in
17.	Jharkhand Legislative Assembly	jharkhandvidhansabha.nic.in
18.	Karnataka Legislative Assembly	kar.nic.in/kla/assembly
19.	Karnataka Legislative Council	kar.nic.in/kla/council/council
20.	Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly	mpvidhansabha.nic.in
21.	Maharashtra Legislative Assembly	mls.org.in/Assembly



22.	Maharashtra Legislative Council	mls.org.in/Council
23.	Manipur Legislative Assembly	manipurassembly.nic.in/
24.	Meghalaya Legislative Assembly	megassembly.gov.in/
25.	Mizoram Legislative Assembly	mizoramassembly.in
26.	Nagaland Legislative Assembly	http://nagaland.nic.in
27.	Odisha Legislative Assembly	odishaassembly.nic.in
28.	Puducherry Legislative Assembly	www.py.gov.in
29.	Punjab Legislative Assembly	punjabassembly.nic.in
30.	Rajasthan Legislative Assembly	rajassembly.nic.in/
31.	Sikkim Legislative Assembly	sikkimasembly.org
32.	Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly	assembly.in.gov.in
33.	Tripura Legislative Assembly	tripuraassembly.nic.in/
34.	Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly	uplegassembly.nic.in
35.	Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council	upvidhanparishad.nic.in
36.	Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly	ukvidhansabha.uk.gov.in
37.	West Bengal Legislative Assembly	wbassembly.gov.in/
38.	Telengana Legislative Assembly	telenganalegislature.org.in