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***Shat
Shat
Naman!***

14 April
Birth anniversary
Baba Saheb Ambedkar



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That sage achieve peace whom approaching all kinds of enjoyable sense objects remains unaffected; like unto the ocean being always being filled by approaching rivers and not that person desirous of sense enjoyment.

— (Bhagavadgita : Ch.-II, 70)

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"India is proud to assist a project that nurtures dreams & aspirations of several families in Jaffna."

-Narendra Modi

"BJP will do work for making Uttar Pradesh the best state."

-Amit Shah

Rama Navami : 28th March

Rama Navami also known as Sri Rama Navami is a major Hindu festival, celebrating the birth of Lord Rama. Rama is the 7th incarnation of Lord Vishnu. The Rama Navami festival falls in the Shukla Paksha on the Navami, the ninth day of the month of Chaitra in the Hindu calendar. Thus it is also known as Chaitra Masa Suklapaksha Navami, and marks the end of the nine-day Chaitra Navratri celebrations.

At some places the festival lasts the whole nine days of the Navratras, thus the period is called 'Sri Rama Navratra'. It is marked by continuous recitals, Akhand Paatha (mostly of the Ramacharitamanas), bhajan, kirtan and distribution of Prasad after the puja and aarti.

On that day images of infant Rama are placed on cradles by devotees. Since having born at noon, temples and family shrines are elaborately decorated and traditional prayers are chanted together by the family in the morning. Also, at temples special havans are organized, along with Vedic chanting of Vedic mantras and offerings of fruits and flowers. Many followers mark this day by Vrata (fasting) through the day. Eight Prahar fasting is suggested by religious texts during Rama Navami. Which means devotees should observe the fast from sunrise to sunrise.

In South India, in Bhadrachalam the day is also celebrated as the wedding anniversary of Sri Rama and his consort Sita. Sitarama Kalyanam, the ceremonial wedding ceremony of the celestial couple is held at temples throughout the south region, with great fanfare and accompanied by group chanting of name of Rama. Whereas, the marriage is celebrated in Mithila and Ayodhya during another day on Vivaha Panchami as per Valmiki Ramayana.

The important celebrations on this day take place at Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh), Sita Samahit Sthal (Sitamarhi), (Bihar), Bhadrachalam (Andhra Pradesh) and Rameswaram (Tamil Nadu), and many other places in India thronged by lakhs of devotees. Rathayatras, the chariot processions and palanquin also known as Shobha yatras of Rama, Sita, Lakshmana and Hanuman, are taken out at several places, including Ayodhya where lakhs of people take a dip in the sacred river Sarayu. ■





Special on BJP Foundation Day: 6 April

35 years of BJP – a journey from 2 to 282

After Jansangh, it will be 35 years of the formation of BJP on 6th April 2015. Starting from 2, it has reached 282 in the Lok Sabha today. This political journey of the BJP is a unique example of the liveliness of the organization. It is an opportunity to salute those unknown karyakartas who without any expectation, greed or temptation remained continuously engaged in the organizational work. In the Indian politics BJP alone is a party which may be called social as well as spiritual political party. Among the parties without philosophy there is a party complete with philosophy which is called Bharatiya Janata Party.

The then president of Janata Party Chandrashekhar excluded Janasangh from Janata Party in the name of dual membership. Many people like Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Lal Krishna Advani, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Sunder Singh Bhandari, Kushabhau Thakre, Jagannath Rao Joshi, Rajmata Scindia, Bhairon Singh Shekhanwat, Jana Krishna Murthy, KL Sharma, Yagyadatta Sharma, JP Mathur were not perturbed. They knew organization is strength and only Jansangh had the organization, it was accepted by everyone.

On 6th April 1980 they met in Delhi and founded BJP. The most beloved leader of Jansangh Atal Bihari Vajpayee was made the president. The first conference was held in Mumbai. In this conference Atalji standing along the side of sea while calling upon the delegates said, “Suraj niklega, andhera chhantega aur Kamal khilega”. The caravan started moving ahead. The karyakartas kept working hard. A time came when in the Lok Sabha elections held in the background of the death of Indira Gandhi BJP was confined to two seats only. Even Atalji, the hero of BJP lost the election. There was a sense of despair for a while but BJP had the strength of its organization. There were karyakartas in every village. Therefore the sense of despair disappeared soon.

Atalji, Advaniji and Joshiji took the command. They moved over the entire nation. The era of *yatras* began. While Dr. Joshi worked to unite India by his ‘Ekatomata Yatra’ Shri Lal Krishna Advani himself came out on the *yatra* from Somnath in Gujarat to Shri Ramjanmabhoomi in Ayodhya. The idea of oneness started taking place in the minds of the people. Cultural Nationalism started getting support in every nook and corner of the country. The Congress mask of ‘dharma-nirpekshata’ started getting defeated by ‘panth-nirpekshata’. The country started moving towards the idea of ‘sarva-dharma- sambhava’. There were times when allegations and counter-allegations became rule but BJP continued to grow. It was a wonderful phase of political change in the country. BJP grew tremendously from north to south and from east to west. While we had stopped at 2, we reached 85 thereafter. And then we started marching ahead continuously.

While we were kept aloof by some people, it slowly led to polarization of politics. On the one side people started joining Congress and on the other people joined BJP. Advaniji presented Atalji as future prime minister. A ray of hope was seen by the people. The country was dreaming of seeing the most beloved leader of opposition Atalji as the prime minister of the nation. The

number of the allies of BJP started increasing. From one to two and from two to five and from five to 24 parties became its allies. In the same manner while we were two in 1984 then only after 12 years in 1996 BJP became the largest party by getting 161 seats and 13-day government was formed under Atalji in the centre. Atalji never showed his faith in making government by hook or crook. The government fell. He said it clearly that not one but hundred governments may be sacrificed but it was not acceptable for him to form government by hook or crook. In 1998 the opportunity came when BJP after winning 182 seats formed NDA government under the leadership of Atalji. This government continued for thirteen months and fell again. The general elections were held in 1999. BJP again got 182 seats. Atalji as the leader of 24 parties successfully led the government for five years.

It was a wonderful phase of coalition in Indian politics. A new chapter of struggle was written. The hard work of the karyakartas was at its peak. In many states including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh BJP governments or coalition governments with BJP started functioning. The development of the country was speeded up. The historic step of nuclear test was taken in the leadership of Atalji. In the Kargil war India won against Pakistan. The decision to link rivers and to build golden quadrangle was taken during this time. The dream of *antyodaya* was realized. Kisan credit card and crop insurance scheme gave strength to the farmers. Not one but many decisions were taken which will be written in golden letters in the Indian history.

In south India expansion of organization took place. Jana Krishnamurthiji, Bangaruji and Venkaiahji of south India became national presidents of BJP. As president Advaniji made remarkable efforts by embarking on not one but many *yatras* to unite the country and to expand BJP. He emerged as an intellectual giant.

BJP government of Gujarat which was functioning under the leadership of Narendra Modi left its indelible imprint in India. Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh made their unique identity. In the deserts of Rajasthan the crop of ideology was sown which started yielding results. In the country the second rung leadership came to the fore. Atalji, Advaniji and Rajamata ji groomed lines of leadership in every state.

BJP always kept itself lively. Even after doing good works in the elections of 2004 results were not encouraging. But BJP neither waited nor stopped it continued to march ahead. In states wherever BJP was in government it made its national image. Gradually people started to think that BJP should be brought again in the central government.

From 2004 to 2014 BJP worked patiently and righteously. It never deviated from its ideology. Slowly Gujarat started emerging as a model. The then chief minister of Gujarat Narendra Modi started emerging as a ray of hope. UPA government pushed the country to nadir in last ten years. The country started to pass through an atmosphere of deep pessimism. Every day it used to be the day for expose of scandals. India had lost both its reputation and credibility, the then prime minister Manmohan Singh was silent and Congress and its allies were looting the country at the instance of Soniaji and Rahul. The black deeds of scams started coming before the people. The situation was so bleak that questions were raised on the prestige of tricolor. The parliament started getting ashamed. The constitution was under threat. The army and border were constrained. The morale of army started getting weakened. The prestige of parliament was under assault. The constitutional structure started facing breakdown. Every citizen of the country was restive.

BJP heard the echo of change. In the Goa national executive a historic decision was taken. In the presidentship of Rajnath Singh ji it was decide to contest elections under the leadership of Narendra Modiji. There were some sweet and sour experiences of these decisions also. But everyone accepted the decision by keeping national interest in mind. The country was looking

for change and for the leadership of Narendra Modi. And then BJP decided that our prime ministerial candidate will be Narendra Modi. The country celebrated this enthusiastically. The faith in leadership increased. Political leader Narendra Modi was able to read this yearning for change. He started working tirelessly. He had travelled throughout Gujarat now he started touring the entire country. By addressing around 500 public meetings he awakened the organization. The atmosphere of pessimism and despair was dispelled in the country. By his untiring efforts Narendra Modi turned the glimmer of hope into illuminating light. He attacked the opponents. Not only this, the faith of people which was earned in Gujarat started spreading in the entire country. BJP organization and the people of India started playing the role of making the hero of Gujarat the hero of the country.

Elections were over. 16 May was the day of results. BJP broke the record of thirty years. From its journey from Jansangh to BJP the party had never formed a government with clear majority in the country. By the sunset the figure reached 282. It was not only a figure of 282 but the rise of an ideology in the political horizon of the country. BJP accepted this mandate given by the people of India with humility and stated 'patience is dharma' and 'karma is worshipped' in democracy.

By the strength of the organization and power of leadership the dreams of the people may be realized. After the journey of last 35 years we are now in the government with clear majority and in many states our governments are in place. We should not seat comfortably to keep this remarkable faith reposed on us by the country. The good decisions of the government are to be taken to villages through our organization. The journey is incomplete now. It is still to be completed. Continued work is required for India with the ideology of cultural nationalism. We have no doubt over our leadership, valuable karyakartas, policies and intention. We have accepted political work as divine work. Therefore we pray to the almighty to take us to success by making us stronger. ■

PM addresses farmers through '*Mann Ki Baat*'

Our commitment is to ensure benefits for farmers through the Land Acquisition Bill, says PM

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on March 22 addressed farmers through his radio programme *Mann ki Baat*. He started talks with damage caused by unseasonal rains and later touched upon the land acquisition bill. He conveyed his message that the Land bill was in the interests of farmers.

In the sixth edition of his radio programme, *Mann ki Baat*, Shri Modi said that the proposed Bill is an improved version of the previous Land Act for the benefit of farmers and villages. Arguing that the Bill addresses "lacunae" in the previous Act which was "enacted in a hurry", the PM, however, clarified that his Government was willing to accommodate any more suggestion in farmers' interest.

While rejecting the allegations that the Land Bill was aimed at benefiting the corporate and was anti-farmer, Shri Modi underlined that it has the same compensation provisions as in the previous Bill



...Continued on page 13

PM's historic visit to Indian Ocean island countries adds new chapter in bilateral relations

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on March 11 embarked on his five days tour of three Indian Ocean Island countries Seychelles, Mauritius & Sri Lanka. These countries are vital for India's security and progress. The government led by Shri Narendra Modi's foreign policy aims to realize India's full strategic potential in Indian Ocean. Modi government has already initiated the 'Sagar Mala Project as promised in the party's election manifesto for building infrastructure in Indian ocean. The visit appears to be part of the Sagar Mala Project. While departing for these island nations Shri Modi pointed out the significance of India's relations with the countries. His visit to Seychelles was first visit of Indian Prime Minister since 1981. On March 11-12 Shri Modi stayed in Mauritius. In his address PM Shri Modi termed Mauritius as 'Chhota Bharat'. His Sri Lanka visit was first visit of any Indian Prime Minister after 28 years. He became first Indian Prime Minister who landed in Sri Lanka's Tamil dominated Northern Province Jaffna. Shri Modi is also the second foreign leader who visited the war ravaged region. British Prime Minister David Cameron had visited Jaffna during a Commonwealth summit in Colombo in November 2013. He urged the country's new leaders to give greater autonomy to its Tamil minority. We are publishing a brief report of his visit to these three countries for our esteemed readers :

PM VISITS SEYCHELLES

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi reached Seychelles on 11th of March. He was accorded a rousing civic reception by the expatriate Indian community in the country here. DNA wrote, it was similar to the reception that he had received at New York's Madison Square Garden when he visited that city in September last year.

An estimated three-and-half-thousand expatriate Indians, greeted the visiting Prime Minister with loud cheers, clapping of hands, and slogans such as "Modi, Modi", and "Vande Mataram", as he began to address them from the podium at the event. Greeting the audience with the Gujarati salutation of "Kemcho", Prime Minister Modi said, "Nature might have separated us, but it can never part our hearts, which are connected. Science says India and Seychelles were a part of the same land a thousand years ago, and I believe that the world is one family, and people who have been brought up with this belief, can never be separated by geographical barriers."

Emphasizing the civilizational ties and links that existed between India and Seychelles, Prime Minister Modi stated further, "The sea (Indian Ocean) doesn't



divide us...it unites us, you can point in India's direction, and say, that's my Bhuj, that's my Chennai."

Praising the contribution of the Indian community to the prosperity of Seychelles, he said, "The Indian community living in Seychelles has further added to the capability, prosperity and sweetness of Seychelles. We are proud of you."

India, he said, was a country where a boy steps out of bed after waking up, and is told to apologise to the motherland, as he is stepping on her, and it was a matter of history as well as pride, that the nation had been able to elect a majority government to rule over it after a gap of over 30 years.

Prime Minister Shri Modi described the Seychelles as a scenically beautiful country, and said that though his current visit was a short one, he would certainly come for a longer visit the next time. He said that the people of Seychelles had made him feel like 'one of their own', adding that India saw the island nation as a trusted neighbour and strategic partner. "Though this is my first visit to Seychelles, the people of Seychelles have made me feel like one of their own. I have been deeply touched by their warmth and affection towards me. This is the first visit by an Indian prime minister in over three decades. Yet, President Michel and I were able to strike a rapport as if we were old friends," he wrote. Relations between India and Seychelles have been characterized by close cooperation and understanding. During his less than 24-hour-visit to Victoria, the capital of Seychelles – the first by an Indian PM in 33 years – the two sides also signed an agreement for hydrographic survey for maritime cooperation." Shri Modi hoped that Seychelles will soon become a full partner in the maritime security cooperation between India, Maldives and Sri Lanka. Along with Mauritius, Seychelles is currently an observer at the Indo-Lanka - Male National Security Advisor level dialogue. The significant part of the growing strategic partnership was the decision by Seychelles to lease Assumption Island, one of its 115 Islands, to India for infrastructure development.

During the visit India launched a coastal surveillance radar project, gifted Seychelles a Dornier aircraft for enhancing maritime security capabilities and received an island on lease for surveillance, as measures to boost its

security ties with the key Indian Ocean region nation.

INDIA & MAURITIUS INTEND TO BUILD PETROLEUM STORAGE

Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi stayed in Mauritius between 11 March and 12 March 2015 as part of his three nation tour to



Seychelles, Sri Lanka & Mauritius. During his arrival Prime Minister of Mauritius Sir Anerood Jugnauth gave the ceremonial reception to Prime Minister Modi.

Shri Modi received here warm and extraordinary hospitality. Both leaders jointly addressed the press. Shri Modi stated "Today, I was pleased to offer a concessional line of credit of 500 million U.S. dollars for civil infrastructure projects for Mauritius. We also intend to quickly build the petroleum storage and bunkering facility in Mauritius. This will not only benefit Mauritius, but also reinforce its role as a regional hub. A decade ago, India helped build the first cyber city in Mauritius. Its remarkable success reflects the strategic foresight of Mauritius in diversifying its economy. Today, we have offered support for construction of the second cyber city. Our agreement today on the development of Agalega Island is a major stride in our cooperation in infrastructure sector. It

demonstrates the depth of our mutual confidence.”

During his visit, five Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) were signed between the two nations. These include:

- MoU in the field of Ocean Economy
- MoU on Programme for Cultural Cooperation for the year 2015-18
- MoU on the Protocol for the importation of fresh mango from India
- MoU for the Improvement in Sea and Air Transportation Facilities at Agalega Island of Mauritius
- MoU on Cooperation in the field of Traditional System of Medicine and Homeopathy



Besides on 12 March 2015, Prime Minister Shri Modi joined the National Day celebrations in Mauritius as the guest of honour and also greeted people of the Island nation and offered prayers by pouring Ganga Jal at Ganga Talao, Mauritius. He also addressed the National Assembly of Mauritius and attended the programme to mark the commissioning of the Barracuda, a ship in the service of the National Coast Guard of Mauritius.

He also paid homage to the valiant Aapravasis for their human spirit and also described the Aapravsi Ghat as signifying the enduring links between India and Mauritius.

HISTORIC VISIT TO SRI LANKA

Modi expresses India's strong desire to develop a Ramayana trail in Sri Lanka and a Buddhist Circuit in India

Morning of March 13th, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi reached Sri Lanka. It was the final destination of Shri Modi's three nation tour. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, received Shri Narendra Modi at the airport in Colombo early morning at around half past five.

A ceremonial reception was organised for the Indian Prime Minister. President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Maithripala Sirisena welcomed Shri Narendra Modi. Prime Minister Modi expressed his delight to meet President Sirisena yet again.

Sri Lanka visit attached great importance for both the nations as this was the first stand alone bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister since 1987. In the day, on March 13th, the Prime Minister of India and the President of Sri Lanka addressed the Joint Statement to the media. Shri Narendra Modi noted the impressive growth of trade in the past few years and hoped to strengthen India-Sri Lanka trade ties further.

Shri Modi expressed India's strong desire to cooperate and develop a Ramayana trail in Sri Lanka and a Buddhist Circuit in India.

PM, Shri Narendra Modi also held a meeting with his Sri Lankan counterpart, PM Ranil Wickremesinghe. Discussions were held relating to a wide-range of issues and fortifying the cooperation between India and Sri Lanka.

Shri Narendra Modi also paid a visit to Mahabodhi Society. He interacted with the Buddhist monks in Colombo. Seeking blessings from them, PM Modi said that Buddha has always shown the path away from wars. He thanked the Mahabodhi society for letting

him visit such a place. Taking note of the contribution of Buddhism in the cultural upliftment of India and Sri Lanka, Shri Narendra Modi considered it to be a uniting force between both the nations.

Early evening, on the very same day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Parliament of Sri Lanka. Considering the Sri Lankan Parliament to be one of the most vibrant in Asia, he conveyed greetings on behalf of the 1.25 billion people of India. Shri Modi expressed his delight to have got the chance to visit Sri Lanka so early in his term. Believing Sri Lanka to be an inspiration for human development, Shri Modi assumed it to be home for enterprise, skill and extraordinary intellectual heritage. He expressed that how without having any land boundary the two nations have been the closest neighbours. The Prime Minister stated his vision of an ideal neighbourhood where trade, investments, technology, ideas and people flow easily across borders. Shri Narendra Modi assured India's full commitment and support in development partnership with Sri Lanka.

Prime Minister Modi also paid tributes to the martyrs of Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF). He remembered their sacrifices and saluted their spirit.

While addressing a business community at Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, the Prime Minister highlighted the relevance of infrastructure, energy, traditional handicrafts, modern manufacturing and tourism. Shri Narendra Modi regarded that India attached highest importance to Sri Lanka's economic progress. He was pleased to see the progress on Sampur Thermal Power Project and the Trincomalee Oil Farm. He also shared his contentment on Government of India's decision about extending the benefit of visa on arrival facility to Sri Lanka starting April 14th.

Shri Modi also met the opposition leader of Sri Lanka Freedom Party, Mr. Nimal Siripala de Silva, leaders of the Tamil National Alliance and the Former President of Sri Lanka, Mrs. Chandrika Kumaratunga.

March 14th, the second day of visit, began with his journey to Anuradhapura. Shri Modi visited Sri Mahabodhi Tree where he and President Sirisena offered prayers. He even posted a picture on Instagram.

After Anuradhapura, the next stop over for Shri Modi was Jaffna. Upon reaching there, PM Modi said that the world was now able to experience a sense of peace from Jaffna too. Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the Jaffna Cultural Centre. He is the first Indian Prime Minister to set foot in this war ravaged town in Sri Lanka's Tamil-dominated Northern Province, a day after he urged the country's new leaders to give greater autonomy to its Tamil minority. He is only the second foreign leader to visit the battle-scarred region. British Prime Minister David Cameron had visited Jaffna during a Commonwealth summit in Colombo in November 2013. Jaffna is about 400 km north of Colombo.

The Prime Minister's brief visit is seen as hugely symbolic, particularly after he called on the majority-Sinhalese government to fully implement the 13th amendment, a 1987 constitutional provision on greater autonomy and go beyond it in the reconciliation process.

The Prime Minister also went to Naguleswaram Temple in Jaffna where he offered prayers in the temple and spent a few minutes.

Jaffna and the Indian State of Gujarat have had a common link for quite some time. It was after the Tsunami in Indian Ocean that a team from Jaffna travelled all the way to Gujarat for studying about reconstruction. After 2001 earthquake that hit Gujarat and posed serious threat to life and property, the Gujarat Government came up with a unique Owner-driven Reconstruction Project. Happy to see the project implemented successfully in Jaffna too, Shri Modi handed over homes at Ilavalai North-West Housing Project site. Around 27,000 more homes would be constructed that the Prime Minister hoped would wipe away tears from the eyes of those

...Continued on page 18

Vote for clear majority governments in UP and Bihar : Amit Shah

BJP National President addresses a huge rally in Varanasi

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah on Sunday, 22nd March 2015 addressed a huge rally in Varanasi. He appealed for change on the occasion and asked the people to vote a BJP government with clear majority in the states of UP and Bihar.

He said that in the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi a government with clear majority is working at the Centre. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has adorned the post of PM as representative of Varanasi.

The government with clear majority is formed in the country with the blessings of the people of Uttar Pradesh. Had the UP not given 73 seats to BJP the government with clear majority was not possible. BJP is indebted to the people of UP. Therefore it is the responsibility of BJP to make UP the best state in the country. The change which has come to UP and BJP got the full majority just because the backwards and extremely backwards supported BJP wholeheartedly.

The BJP President invoked Modi's humble background, saying he faced

poverty in his life and sold tea in Gujarat during his initial years, but has risen to occupy the highest post today. "The Bhartiya Janata Party made a person, who belonged to the backward caste, as the Prime Minister of this country, who had faced poverty in his life and sold tea. Our party



respects backwards, most-backwards and the dalit communities," Shah said at the rally in Modi's Lok Sabha constituency. He said that only Prime Minister Narendra Modi can understand their plight of the poor as he has risen from among them. "With your support Narendra Modi became Prime Minister of this country and BJP gained full majority in Lok Sabha elections and now again with your support, the next

government in UP is going to be formed by BJP," Shri Shah said addressing a rally where local backward caste leader from Samajwadi Party Anil Rajbhar formally joined BJP.

Appealing to lend their support to BJP to form the next government in UP in 2017, he reminded them that "it was this party which had extensively worked for them during its rule."

"BJP government would work for solving reservation issue in the state. Our party does not play politics on the basis of caste and religion rather our politics revolves on the agenda of development," said Shah adding that "our aim is to make Uttar Pradesh the most developed state in the country...Those who

ruled the country for the last 67 years from Panchayat to Parliament— Congress and its allies— they always talked about eradicating poverty from the lives of people, but it did not happen....The poverty of the countrymen did not go away but the poverty of their leaders had surely disappeared." He lamented that six decade after independence, nearly 40 crore poor people did not have their bank accounts." I want to ask

...Continued from page 7

those who have ruled the country for the longest period. Why didn't you think about providing bank accounts to poor, like us. Why it didn't come to your mind."

He said those who have never faced poverty cannot understand its suffering.

"How will you understand the pain of poverty when you have not ever faced it in your life? Our PM had faced it, so he is working in this direction to improve the lives of poor people," Shah said. He referred to the Jan Dhan yojna and said "within six months period of Narendra Modi's government, a large number of bank accounts of these poor people were opened... Besides this, a facility for availing loan from Rs 5000 to Rs five lakh is also being provided to poor people such as farmers, vendors, rickshaw and auto rickshaw drivers among others under PM's Mudra scheme," said Shri Shah.

Shah said earlier bank loans were only given to rich and the corporates. "Many bankers argued that distribution of loans to poor people will lead to losses, I told them that if a poor person takes loans, he is the one who will surely repay the amount," Shah said.

Shah said the NDA government wants to bring change in the country and Modi is striving for it. He attacked the Congress over the coal blocks and 2G spectrum scams and said NDA government has filled government's coffers by their auctioning.

Along with Rajbhar, a large number of people from the backward caste also joined the party. The rally was organised in honour of Raja Suheldev, a backward caste king. Shah recalled the history of Suheldev and said that during his time he had fought against foreign invaders. (FOC) ■

enacted in 2013 by the then UPA Government.

He also said that the "No Consent" provision in the proposed new law applies to acquisitions by Government for Government or Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects and insisted that the same clause exists in the previous Act as well. "I am surprised that all kinds of misinformation is being spread," Modi said while asking farmers not to be misled by "rumours and lies."

"Our commitment is to ensure benefits for farmers through the Land Acquisition Act. So many lies are being spread. It is my fervent appeal to farmers not to make decisions on the basis of these lies. Don't be misled. You trust me, I will not betray your trust. Rumours are being spread that Modi is bringing the law to reduce compensation. I can't even think of committing such a sin. Such misinformation is being carried out for political reasons. You have to guard against them," Shri Modi said.

During the 30-minute programme, Shri Modi said the then Congress-led States like Maharashtra and Haryana too have favoured changes in the Land Act of 2013 and clarified that if any State wants to go by the previous law, they are free to do so. Lambasting the Congress party which has intensified its protest against the proposed Land Bill, Shri Modi said: "Those projecting themselves as sympathizers of farmers and undertaking protests had been using a 120-year-old law to acquire farm land for over 60-65 years after Independence and are now targeting my Government which is trying to improve the Act of 2013."

"If anything is done in a hurry, some lacunae remain. May be the intent was not wrong but lacunae are there which need to be corrected. Our attempt is to address these lacunae to ensure that the law is beneficial for villagers, farmers, their future generations and to ensure they get electricity and water," PM said.

He said the biggest among them was that 13 aspects of Government activity, like railways, national highway and mining, for which land is mostly acquired. These were kept out of the ambit of that law. It meant that compensation for acquiring land for these purposes would be paid on the basis of the 120-year-old law, he said, adding this has been addressed and hence farmers will get four times compensation for these too.

BJP National membership crosses 7 crore mark

One thing is becoming clear now in the political arena that Bharatiya Janata Party is fast spreading its wings numerically across the country. The party's national membership drive, which was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 01 November, 2014, has crossed the 7 crore mark till March 15, 2015. The primary aim of the drive is to enroll at least 3-4 times of primary members and 50% more active members into the party fold by the end of this programme. The present drive will continue till March 31, 2015.

It is noteworthy that this membership drive is not new for BJP. In a gap of every six years the BJP conducts membership drive and every primary member become member again after six years duration. Amongst almost 1300 parties, there are one or two only in which internal democracy still survives and there is a system to connect the people. After getting linked to the party one is connected to the organization and there is a system to reach to any post through election. Like earlier instances, BJP is organizing this massive membership drive but so far as the mechanism is concerned, apart from the

traditional methods for the first time the party is using technology and enrolling members over mobile phone. Anybody interested will have to make a call to **18002662020** for joining BJP as a Primary Member of the party. However, persons without having mobile phones have to

changes in the eligibility criteria for becoming an active member. One who wants to become an active member will have to give 7-day time in any locality, slum, Dalit *basti*, village or block where BJP has no member and work for membership and will have to submit report. After that once

send an SMS to **9242492424** and he/she can become a member of BJP.

To become an active member one has to make at least 100 primary members. This time BJP has decided to increase 50% of the active members which was 5.5 -6.00 lakh earlier. If a state has 100 active members then it has to make 150 by increasing 50%. And the party has made some

the work is certified he will be involved as an active member. Every active member has to make 100 members. A pamphlet in this regard has been prepared, in which name, *mandal*, district, state, mobile number of the active member who is being proposed are to be given. In one family more than one number can be made. BJP has made up its mind to see that

this system has to be strictly followed from top to booth level Karyakartas.

Following March 31 the organization has decided to celebrate the whole Year 2015 as 'Sadasyata Parb Varsh'. The aim of this 'Sadasyata Parb Varsh' is to reach out to every household of this country and 'Ghar Ghar Bhajapa' or a member from each and every household of the country in BJP, as the final objective of the party.

As per the plan the BJP will start the 'Sampark Abhiyan' (contact drive) from April 1. During this programme, contact will be established with people and membership cards will be distributed. This will help in strengthening the party's bond with its members".

Everybody recognizes this fact that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Party National President Shri Amit Shah were the driving force behind this mammoth nationwide membership drive exercise. Shri Shah personally visited maximum number of states and has closely monitored the exercise throughout its journey till date.

The campaign has drawn a huge response from across the country, with the biggest number of people joining the party in Uttar Pradesh via missed calls. While 1.3 crore people from Uttar Pradesh became primary members of the BJP, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh followed with 80.85 lakh and 78.90 lakh new

inductees respectively till date. Amongst the small states Himachal Pradesh, had only 2.1 lakh new members who joined BJP during this drive.

However, the response in states like Odisha was remarkable. The state now has over 21 lakh members. Previously, the party had only 3 lakh members in the state. Similarly West Bengal, where the party is gaining ground has also responded well to the party's membership drive. The number of members grew almost four times to 27 lakh members from 7 lakh four months ago.

On that occasion interacting with media persons BJP Vice President and Convener of the Nationwide Membership Drive Dr Dinesh Sharma said it had close to 3 crore members before it launched the current drive from the November last year and had one crore new members join it in the first month alone. He said we enrolled 1 crore more members in the next 22 days, 1 crore more in the next 13 days, 1 crore more in next 16 days... The members enrolled through mobile reached 7.2 crore by March 16 he said and further added that it is on the course to have the largest membership among all political parties in the world.

He also said that BJP Membership Drive is underway in other countries with the organization under the banner of 'Friends of BJP' have enrolled thousands of

new members in London, New York and other places across globe." BJP is all set to cross the number of members of the communist party of China and Russia. In China, the Communist Party has 7 crore members which include all the army personnel and government employees. But the actual number of common citizens is not more than 5 crore," he said. Dr Sharma said that BJP is all set to become the world's largest political party after March 31.

BJP National Vice President and Co- Convener of the Membership Drive Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudde said that the drive has given encouraging results in all the states including North-Eastern states and seven southern states where the party is weak. "We have enrolled record new members in West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu like states where the number of new registered members crossed all previous record.

Explaining about the future course of action, BJP National Secretary and Co-Convener of the drive Shri Arun Singh said the party has identified about 15,000 active members who will be trained in the coming months. "They will be taught three major things - party's ideology, achievements of the NDA government and leadership quality. These members will further inform the remaining members in their area about these things," Shri Singh added. ■

BJP President reconstitutes National Executive of the Party

BJP National President Shri Amit Shah re-constituted the team of the National Executive on 12 March, 2015. Shri Shah has included former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, senior leaders Shri L.K. Advani, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley, Union Foreign affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj.

Among others the Union Ministers like Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Shri Nitin Gadkari, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad Shri Ananth Kumar, Shri Thawarchand Gehlot, Shri J.P. Nadda, Harshvardhan, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Shri Prakash Javadekar, Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Shri Kiran Rijju, Shri Mahesh Chandra Sharma, Shri V.K. Singh and Shri Rao Inderjeet Singh got a place in the executive.

All the eight chief ministers of BJP-ruled states, two deputy chief ministers, 14 former chief ministers and three ex-deputy chief ministers are permanent invitees to the meetings of the National Executive.

He also re-constituted the list of permanent and Special Invitees. The earlier panel was formed during Rajnath Singh's tenure as party president in 2013.

Besides, All Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council party leaders, State Presidents of all states, All General Secretaries (Org.) expected in State General Secretary (Org.) Meeting will be Special Invitees in National Executive. Following is the list of the members.

MEMBERS

1. Shri Narendra Modi
2. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee
3. Sh. L.K. Advani, MP
4. Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, MP
5. Sh. Rajnath Singh, MP
6. Smt. Sushma Swaraj, MP
7. Sh. Arun Jaitley, MP
8. Sh. M. Venkaiah Naidu, MP
9. Sh. Nitin Gadkari, MP
10. Sh. Ananth Kumar, MP
11. Sh. Thawar Chand Gehlot, MP
12. Sh. Jagat Prakash Nadda, MP
13. Sh. Ravi Shankar Prasad, MP
14. Sh. Yashwant Sinha
15. Sh. Kalraj Mishra, MP
16. Sh. Vinay Katiyar, MP
17. Sh. Radha Mohan Singh, MP
18. Dr. C.P. Thakur, MP
19. Sh. Jual Oram, MP
20. Sh. S.S. Ahluwalia, MP
21. Sh. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, MP
22. Sh. Bandaru Dattatreya, MP
23. Sh. Dharmendra Pradhan, MP
24. Sh. Rajeev Pratap Rudy, MP
25. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, MP
26. Sh. Hukum Dev Narayan Yadav, MP
27. Sh. Prakash Javadekar, MP
28. Sh. L. Ganeshan
29. Sh. Lalji Tondon, MP
30. Sh. O. Rajgopal, Ex-MP
31. Sh. Tathagat Roy
32. Sh. Subramanyam Swamy
33. Sh. Gulabchand Katariya, MP
34. Sh. Narendra Singh Tomar, MP
35. Dr. Harsh Vardhan, MP
36. Sh. Tapir Gaon, Ex-MP
37. Sh. Varun Gandhi, MP
38. Sh. Piyush Goyal, MP
39. Sh. Vijay Goel, MP
40. Sh. Satpal Maharaj, Ex-MP
41. Sh. Vishwabhusan Harichandan

42. Sh. Bijoy Mahapatra
43. Gen. (Retd.) V. K. Singh, MP
44. Sh. Birendra Singh, MP
45. Sh. Suresh Prabhu, MP
46. Sh. P.K. Krishna Das
47. Sh. Vinod Pandey
48. Sh. Trivendra Singh Rawat
49. Sh. Rameshwar Prasad Chaurasiya, MLA
50. Smt. Aarti Mehra, Ex-Mayor
51. Smt. Louis Marandi
52. Sh. V. Shanmughanathan
53. Capt. Abhimanyu
54. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, MP
55. Sh. Omprakash Dhankar
56. Dr. Sanjay Paswan, Ex-MP
57. Sh. Prahlad Singh Patel
58. Dr. Chandan Mitra, MP
59. Sh. Vinod Khanna, MP
60. Sh. Ramdas Aggrawal, Ex-MP
61. Dr. Mahesh Chandra Sharma, Ex-MP
62. Sh. Om Prakash Mathur, MP
63. Yogi Adityanath, MP
64. Sh. Suresh Pujari
65. Sh. Anil Madhav Dave, MP
66. Sh. Nitinbhai Patel
67. Sh. Navjot Singh Siddhu, Ex-MP
68. Sh. Sheshadri Chari
69. Sh. Satya Pal Jain, Ex-MP
70. Smt. Shobha Surendran
71. Sh. Ashwani Kumar Chaubey, MP
72. Sh. Shatrughan Sinha, MP
73. Sh. Tarun Vijay, MP
74. Dr. Anita Arya, Ex-MP
75. Sh. Jaiprakash Agrawal (Surya)
76. Sh. Sripad Yasso Naik, MP
77. Smt. Gauri Chaudhary
78. Sh. Arjun Meghwal, MP
79. Sh. Harbansh Kapoor, MLA
80. Sh. Manoj Sinha, MP
81. Sh. Rajendra Agrawal, MP
82. Sh. Kirit Somaiya, MP
83. Sh. Avinash Rai Khanna, MP
84. Sh. Rajendra Rathore
85. Dr. Ramapati Ram Tripathi
86. Sh. Kailash Vijayvargiya

87. Sh. Vijay Kumar Rupani, Ex-MP
88. Sh. Ashwini Sharma
89. Sh. Sudhir Mungantiwar, MLA
90. Sh. Devdas Apte, Ex-MP
91. Sh. Kiren Rijiju, MP
92. Sh. Dilip Ray, Ex-MP
93. Dr. Jitendra Singh, MP
94. Sh. Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, MP
95. Smt. Maneka Gandhi, MP
96. Prof. Ram Shanakar Katheriya
97. Sh. Ramesh Bais, MP
98. Sh. Eknath Rao Khadse, MLA
99. Sh. Vinod Tawde, MLC
100. Sh. Pon. Radhakrishnan, MP
101. Sh. Rao Indrajit Singh, MP
102. Sh. Krishnapal Gurjar, MP
103. Sh. Rajveer Singh (Rajju Bhaiya), MP
104. Sh. Dushyant Singh, MP
105. Dr. Mahesh Sharma, MP
106. Sh. Ratan Lal Katariya, MP
107. Dr. Uditraj, MP
108. Sh. Santosh Gangwar, MP
109. Sh. Ashok Khajuria, MLA
110. Sh. Rajen Gohain, MP
111. Dr. C.P. Radhakrishan, Ex-MP

PERMANENT INVITEES

Chief Minister

1. Sh. Shivraj Singh Chauhan
2. Sh. Raman Singh
3. Smt. Vasundhara Raje Scindia
4. Smt. Anandiben Patel
5. Sh. Raghuvar Das
6. Sh. Devendra Gandadharrao Fadnavis
7. Sh. Manohar Lal Khattar
8. Sh. Laxmikant Parsekar

Deputy Chief Minister

9. Sh. Francesco De Souza
10. Dr. Nirmal Singh

Ex. Chief Minister

11. Sh. Sunder Lal Patwa
12. Sh. Shanta Kumar
13. Sh. Kailash Joshi
14. Sh. Madan Lal Khurana
15. Sh. Manohar Parrikar
16. Sushri Uma Bharti

17. Sh. Prem Kumar Dhumal
18. Sh. Arjun Munda
19. Sh. Bhagat Singh Koshyari
20. Major Gen. (Retd.) BC Khanduri
21. Sh. Ramesh Pokriyal "Nishank"
22. Sh. Babu Lal Gaur
23. Sh. D.V. Sadanand Gauda
24. Sh. Jagdish Shettar

Ex. Deputy Chief Minister

25. Sh. Sushil Kumar Modi
26. Sh. K.S. Eshwarappa
27. Sh. R. Ashok

SPECIAL INVITEES

1. Sh. Thupstan Chhewang, MP
2. Sh. Ramtahal Chaudhary, MP
3. Smt. Kirron Kher, MP
4. Shri Arun Haldar
5. Sh. Kamal Bairiwal
6. Sh. Babul Supriyo, MP
7. Sh. Chetan Chauhan, MP
8. Sh. Shamsheer Singh Manhas
9. Sh. Jaibhan Singh Pawaiya, Ex-MP
10. Sh. Ganga Prasad
11. Sh. K. J. Alphons
12. Sh. Somu Veerraju
13. Sh. P. Chandra Shekhar Rao
14. Sh. C.T. Ravi
15. Sh. Ladharam H. Nagwani
16. Sh. Ashok Dhawan

17. Sh. Mahendra Singh
18. Sh. Arvind Limbavali, MLA
19. Sh. Suresh Oberoi
20. Sh. Ramchandra Rao, Sr. Advocate
21. Sh. Mangal Prabhat Lodha
22. Sh. Vishnu Deo Sai, MP
23. Sh. Sarvanand Sonowal
24. Sh. S.P. Singh Baghel, Ex-MP
25. Sh. Chandra Mohan Patwari
26. Sh. Saryu Rai
27. Sh. R.S. Pandey
28. Sh. Ramesh Chand Tomar, Ex-MP
29. Sh. Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti, MP
30. Sh. Satyendra Narayan Kushwaha
31. Sh. Madan Kaushik, MLA
32. Dr. Harmohan Dhawan
33. Sh. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, MP
34. Sh. Bishnu Pad Ray, MP
35. Sh. Gopal Krishna Agrawal
36. Sh. R. Ramakrishnan
37. Sh. Ravikant Garg
38. Sh. Vijay Sampla, MP
39. Sh. Keshav Prasad Maurya, MP
40. Sh. Govind Karjol, MLA

All Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council party leaders, State Presidents of all states, All General Secretaries (Org.) expected in State General Secretary (Org.) Meeting will be Special Invitees in National Executive. ■

Continued from page 11

who suffered in the past.

Shri Narendra Modi also met with Northern Province CM CV Wigneswaran. Prime Minister Modi also flagged off a train service from Talaimannar to Madhu Road. Shri Narendra Modi considered it to be an honour to have been able to dedicate such a developmental project in Sri Lanka.

The Indian High Commissioner in Colombo organised a reception in respect of Prime Minister of India. Shri Narendra Modi interacted with the guests there at the event.

As he left the land of Southern neighbour, the Prime Minister was optimistic that in the coming future India-Sri Lanka ties would be stronger.

The Prime Minister hoped that both the nations would work together to harness the vast potential of the Ocean Economy. He expected that both nations would rise above together beyond the recent histories and work more effectively in the times to come. A new page was added to the chapter of India-Sri Lanka relationship with this historic visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. ■

Cabinet approves bill for 33% reservation in police forces of all Union Territories including Delhi Police

With intent to empowering women the Union Cabinet approves bill for making 33% reservation for women in direct recruitment in Non-Gazetted posts in police forces of all Union Territories including Delhi Police.

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on March 20 gave its approval for making reservation of 33 percent for women, horizontally and in each category (SC/ST/OBC and others) in direct recruitment in non-gazetted posts from Constables to sub-inspector in the police forces of all Union Territories, including Delhi Police. The Cabinet also approved that suitable enabling provisions in the Recruitment Rules should be made accordingly by all UTs police forces including Delhi Police. The reservation will be available to women against all such vacancies existing on the date of issue of the order after Cabinet approval and vacancies arising thereafter.

This decision will help in augmenting the representation of the women in the police forces of all UTs and Delhi Police so as to make the police more gender sensitive. It will also instill confidence among women to enable them to approach the police without hesitation for seeking protection and assistance as and when required.

Insurance Bill passed in Rajya Sabha

In a major breakthrough to the BJP-led NDA government's efforts to push through reforms, the Insurance Laws Amendment Bill, 2015 was passed by the Rajya Sabha on March 13. The bill was passed by voice vote after walkout by Trinamool Congress and DMK. The FDI cap in insurance sector has now been raised from the existing 26 percent to 49 percent. The Lok Sabha had passed the Bill on

March 4.

The bill will replace the Ordinance issued by the government. The bill had sought to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 and the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act 1972 and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

- ▶ The enactment of this Bill has the potential to be a historic game-changer for the domestic insurance industry.
- ▶ The bill has several provisions that can enable Indian consumers, as well as domestic and foreign companies, to benefit from India's vast and at present an almost unpenetrated market.
- ▶ The Bill has increased the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in the sector to 49 per cent from 26 per cent.
- ▶ The move will help in creating jobs that the country requires for its ever-increasing workforce. Some consultancies have estimated an additional 15-20 per cent jobs in the industry in the coming few years.
- ▶ As per McKinsey report for the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), the market size of the insurance sector currently stands at close to US \$60 billion. This is expected to quadruple over the next ten years (till 2025) to US \$250 billion. If that happens, it not only means greater capital infusion but also greater insurance penetration among the masses and greater jobs within the sector
- ▶ Companies or co-operative societies in the life or general insurance business must have a minimum equity capital of Rs 100 crore, while those in health insurance must have a minimum equity capital of Rs 50 crore.
- ▶ An insurer cannot challenge a life insurance policy for any reason, after a period of five years.

Government's achievements

- ▶ Insurers who fail to meet their obligations with respect to underwriting third party motor insurance, or underwriting policies in rural and social sectors or with vulnerable sections, face a fine of Rs 25 crore.
- ▶ The Bill provides for appeals against decisions by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority to lie with the Securities Appellate Tribunal set up under the SEBI Act, 1992.

Mines & Minerals bills passed by Parliament

Two key bills- Coal Mines and Minerals, were passed by both houses of the Parliament. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2015, and Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2015 got approval on March 20 when the Rajya Sabha passed legislation seeking to allow the auction of coal mines and other minerals, in a breakthrough for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's agenda of economic reforms. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2015, and Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2015, now require the President's signature to enter the statute books, having received approval from the Lok Sabha earlier this month. ■

- ▶ Under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, coal mining was allowed for (i) government companies, (ii) companies that the government had sub-leased the mines to, and (iii) private companies engaged in a specified end-use such as power, iron and steel, cement and coal washing. The Bill seeks to enable private companies to mine coal for sale in the open market.
- ▶ The Bill creates three categories of mines: (i) Schedule I, (ii) Schedule II, and (iii) Schedule III. Schedule I mines includes

(i) all the 204 coal mines cancelled by the Supreme Court in August 2014, (ii) any land acquired by the prior allottee in or around the coal mines, and (iii) mine infrastructure. Schedule II includes 42 Schedule I mines that are currently under production or about to start production. Schedule III mines includes the 32 Schedule I mines that have been earmarked for a specified end-use.

- ▶ Schedule I mines can be allocated by way of either public auction or government allotment. Schedule II and III mines will be allocated by way of public auction. Public auction will be conducted by way of e-auction on a payment of maximum fee of Rs five crore.
- ▶ The new legislation will herald a new regime of competition, efficiency and transparency for key natural resources by fostering fair play.

Legislative reforms cleared in first phase of

Budget session

- ▶ 49% foreign investment in insurance
- ▶ Coal mine auctions
- ▶ Minerals site auctions

▶ It will strengthen the reform agenda of the government and drive the economy to higher levels of growth.

▶ One of the new things in the coal bill is more money going to the states in line with the principle of cooperative federalism.

- ▶ Two rounds of coal block auctions have already fetched the government Rs.2.09 trillion from 33 blocks, giving credence to the national auditor's claims that allocation of mines over the years had caused substantial losses to the national exchequer.

Cabinet approves bill to repeal 758 archaic laws

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on March 20 gave its approval to introduce the Appropriation Acts (Repeal) Bill, 2015 in Parliament so as to repeal 758 Appropriation Acts [including Appropriation (Railways) Acts

Government's achievements

and 111 State Appropriation Acts enacted by Parliament since 1950 to 1976].

This is in keeping with the Prime Minister's commitment to bring reform in the country's legal system, so as to make it more accessible to the common man.

This is also in consonance with the recommendations of the Select Committee of Rajya Sabha to have a repeal clause in the Appropriation Acts. However, such clause shall be provided when the enactment of the Appropriation Act, 2016 is undertaken where under the Appropriation Acts of 2013 shall be repealed.

The Appropriation Acts [including Appropriation (Railways) Acts] enacted from the year 1950 to 2012 and 111 State Appropriation Acts enacted by Parliament since 1950 to 1976, in reality have lost their meaning and are still shown on the Statute-Books. The repealing of Appropriation Acts whose terms have ended will in no way cause any negative impact on actions that were validly taken under these Acts.

Budget session registers LS productivity of 123%

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu has said that the first phase of the Budget session of Parliament that concluded on March 20 has been productive and has been the most significant and rewarding of the four sessions of Parliament since the Government assumed office in May, 2015. Giving details of functioning of both the Houses, Shri Naidu informed that Lok Sabha has passed 14 Bills while Rajya Sabha cleared 7 and both the Houses passed a set of 7 Bills. Productivity of Lok Sabha has been 123.45% while Rajya Sabha has worked for 106.79% of the scheduled time. Lok Sabha sat beyond the scheduled business hours on 11 days while the upper house did so on 9 days.

Shri Naidu further informed that disruption of proceedings have come down and thanked the leaders and members of all parties for the same.

He said while the Lok Sabha lost 1 hour 46 minutes due to interruptions, the House functioned for an additional 27 hours 12 minutes. Rajya Sabha has lost 4 hours 21 minutes but made up an additional 11 hours 41 minutes.

Shri Venkaiah Naidu said that with the passing of Mines and Minerals and Coal Mines Bills replacing the Ordinances, "the Parliament has enabled the beginning of a new era of transparent governance in the country by ending the Government's discretion in allocation of minerals which has come to be a cesspool of corruption and malpractices. I would rate these two legislations at the top of the major outcomes of the Budget session so far.

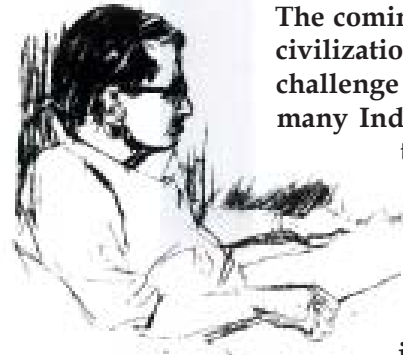
Passing of the Insurance Bill hiking FDI in insurance sector is the next major outcome and I thank the Congress Party for their support". ■

India is fastest growing economy : OECD

The organization for Economic Cooperation and development (OECD) on March 18 projected Indian economy to grow 7.7% in 2015 and accelerated to 8% in 2016. The country is expected to become the fastest-growing major economy over the next two years. China is pegged to grow at 7% in both these years, even as the world economy is forecast to do moderately better than expected a few months ago. The think tank forecasts that the Indian economy is set to perform strongly. ■

Our Nationhood

Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya



India had to contend with the challenge of its existence as a nation. The coming of the colonial rule not only posed a challenge to Indian civilization, culture, economy and polity it also posed an intellectual challenge for India to reclaim itself as a united entity. Unfortunately many Indians under the influence of western understanding of the term 'nation' could not dissociate themselves from alien conceptualization aimed at distorting its meaning. Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya tried to conceptualise the term from Indian understanding of the term and from Indian intellectual and civilizational perspective. We are publishing his ideas under the title "Our Nationhood" in two parts for better understanding of ideological positioning on the term "nation" and its attributes. The second and final part is published below for our esteemed readers:

'CHITI' IS CENTRAL TO NATION

CHITI is fundamental and is central to the nation from its very beginning. Chiti determines the direction in which the nation is to advance culturally. Whatever is in accordance with Chiti is included in culture.

AWAKENING NATION'S 'VIRAT'

WE have to undertake the task of. away. awakening our nation's 'Virat'. Let us go forward in this task with a sense of pride of our heritage, with a realistic assessment of the present and a great ambition for the future. We wish to make this country neither a shadow of some distant past nor an imitation of Russia or America.

OUR NATIONAL IDENTITY

IT is essential that we think about our national identity. Without this identity there is no meaning of independence, nor can independence become the instrument of progress and happiness. As long as we are unaware of our national Identity, we cannot recognise or develop all our potentialities. Under alien rule this identity is suppressed. That is why nations wish to remain independent so that they can progress according to their natural bent and can experience happiness in their endeavour. Nature is powerful. An attempt to go against nature or to disregard her leads to troubles. The natural instincts cannot be disregarded but it

is possible to elevate this nature to the level of culture. Psychology tells us how by suppression of various natural instincts different mental disorders ensue. Such a person remains restless and dejected. His abilities slowly deteriorate, and become perverted. The Nation too, like the individual, falls a prey to numerous ills when its natural instincts are disregarded. The basic cause of the problems facing Bharat is the neglect of its national identity.

CONDITIONS FOR NATIONAL GLORY

IF we have to take the nation to the pinnacle of glory we have to fulfil two conditions. The first is that this glory must be the result of our own national endeavour. For this the entire nation's capacity to work needs to be organised. If we full this condition the prosperity we achieve for Bharat would be considered genuine. The second point is that while achieving this prosperity on the basis of organised capacity, Dharma has also to be protected. Organised force by itself is not enough. Even thieves may have a strong organization, but it will neither be permanent nor beneficial, hence it is necessary that our organised capacity should protect Dharma even while conquering glory.

EUROPEAN NATIONALISM DESTRUCTIVE

IN European countries nationalism led to

ruination. But to call Indian nationalism destructive because of this reason is like being once bitten twice shy. It is wrong to presume that our nationalism would be as calamitous as that of these nations.

This is not a mere claim, it is the truth, and this truth is supported by thousands of years of history of Indian nationalism. The history of these countries of the world for about a thousand years is full of scenes of destruction, while in the long history of India there is not a single page describing grief caused to man. The entire history of India is full of goodwill for the whole world. The remains of Indian history found in different parts of the world declare to this day the truth that India has striven only for the good of the entire creation. Hence the truth is that if the world is to be saved from the terrible effects of Western nationalism that have resulted from mutual conflict, hatred and competition, we shall have to organist and strengthen Indian nationalism. This way lies the good of the world.

NATIONALISM VERSUS RELIGION

DURING the regime of the British we had accepted that there are many different communities, like the Muslims and the Christians. in this country and the spirit of nationalism can be created only by protecting their individual existence. Actually to accept their independent existence on the national level is a big mistake, because to classify society into classes such as Muslims and Christians on the basis of religion is different from nationalism. Followers of the same religion can be nationals of different nations, while a single nation can include the followers of many religions.

If nationalism is a sufficiently strong sentiment, religion does not enter it. But today our effort is to accept the independent existence of these communities and then to unify them so that the unification does not require anybody to forsake anything. The funny thing is that nobody has a clear idea of the unifying element that can bring everybody together.

BHARAT IS 'MATA'

THE basis of our nationalism is not simply Bharat but 'Bharat Mata'. Remove the word Mata and Bharat would remain just a piece of land. The affinity between us and this land is established

only with the relationship of the mother. No piece of land can be called a country so long as the relationship between it and the people living in it is not that of mother and son. This is patriotism. But patriotism does not merely mean love for a piece of land. Even birds and beasts have such love.

The tiger lives in its lair, and birds return to their nests every evening. But they cannot be called patriots. Man also comes to acquire a feeling of affinity for the place where he may live. But that is not enough for patriotism. Only those people can be called patriots in a particular country who are bound together as one people. A country is created by the coming together of land as mother and an integrated society as son. This is patriotism and it is deathless.

PRESERVE OUR MOORINGS

WHY is there no vitality in the country even after so many years of independence ? Why have poverty, starvation, unemployment and feeling of hopelessness increased? Why has national character degenerated ? Why has there been a continuous fall in all fields-economic, political, social, literary-and why has the life of the nation begun to drift aimlessly ? Why are we drifting like this ? Without doubt the only reason is that we are not standing on our own feet. He who has lost his moorings must naturally drift, like an uprooted tree moving helplessly with a current of water. Our entire national life has lost its roots. The means of only checking this fall is a true realization of national life. Without a pure feeling of nationalism not only is national development not possible but even independence may be lost. We have fallen on these evil days because we have forgotten the awareness of nationalism that manifests itself in the age-old history of the nation. To get out of this pit we must clarify the sentiment that is the basis of the nation.

A strong force can be created if the roots of national ideals and aspirations are strengthened. The purpose of national life can be understood on a true realization of nationhood, and then the life of the nation throbs with vitality. An absence of this true realization of nationhood is the basic cause of our present fall as a nation. ■

(Excerpts from the book - "Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya A Profile" edited by Sudhakar Rajee)

Dr. BR Ambedkar : A visionary scholar

By Dr. Shiv Shakti Bakshi

As the nation celebrates 124th birth anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar on 14 April 2015 the people remember him as chief architect of the Indian constitution, a social revolutionary and a *Dalit* thinker. Babasaheb represents a multifaceted personality contributing immensely to enrich various facets of national life. Apart from earning a number of doctorates from prestigious Columbia University and the London School of Economics for his study and research in law, economics and political science he wrote fearlessly on various issues as an academician and as a political activist. His writings may be broadly divided into various parts, viz. the writings of a political activist, an academician, a nationalist, a spiritual leader and so on. As a political activist and as a mass leader, Babasaheb was raising issues far ahead of his times, hence a radical approach was required to galvanise support for his agenda of social reform so as to bring the issue of caste discrimination and untouchability in the central focus. While as an academician he tried to frame scholarly and well researched responses on the burning issues of the day which remain relevant even today.

Babasaheb was born on 14 April 1891, in a Mahar family then staying at Mhow, now in

Madhya Pradesh. His family originally hailed from the town of Ambavade in the Ratnagiri district of modern-day Maharashtra. As a school going child he had to face various kinds of discrimination owing to low status of Mahars in the caste hierarchy but he remained undeterred in his resolve to pursue higher education. As a



student from Elphinstone College he was granted a scholarship of twenty five rupees a month from the Gaikwad ruler of Baroda, Sahyaji Rao III for higher studies in the USA. He went to USA for his doctoral studies and obtained degrees in economics and political science. On his return he joined service of Baroda state government and also started as a social activist fighting against caste discrimination and untouchability then widely prevalent in Indian society. His activism and scholarly espousal of the cause of the deprived and

oppressed sections soon saw him emerging as a political leader of national stature.

So far Babasaheb writings in India have been selectively read within a particular framework showing him a champion of deprived and oppressed sections of Indian society. He is seen as a chief architect of Indian constitution who laid the foundation of liberal democracy in the country expecting the state to take welfare measures in the interest of weaker sections of the society. But other side of his personality remains unexplored. The academician and thinker in him, his advocacy for exchange of population at the time of partition, his concerns for preserving cultural contours of Indian civilization, his decision to embrace Buddhism not only as a political act but as a result of a honest spiritual quest, his rejection of Islam, Christianity and Marxism and his reading of India's past – and many more such other dimensions of Babasaheb's personality still awaits to be studied, researched and explored.

Speaking on the third reading of the draft constitution Babasaheb said in voice choked with emotion, "On 26th January 1950. India will be an independent country (Cheers). What would happen to her independence? Will she

maintain her independence or will she lose it again? This is the first thought that comes to my mind. It is not that India was never an independent country. The point is that she once lost the independence she had. Will she lose it a second time?"

He further answers his own question emphasizing that these apprehensions were rooted in the history of India wherein the country had to face the ignominy of defeat and suffer at the hands of conquerors due to treachery of its own people. He said on the occasion, "What perturbs me greatly is the fact that not only India has once before lost her Independence, but she lost it by the infidelity and treachery of some of her own people. In the Invasion of Sind by Mahommed-Bin-Kasim, the military commanders of King Dahar accepted bribes from the agents of Mahommed-Bin-Kasim and refused to fight on the side of their King. It was Jaichand who invited Mahommed Ghori to invade India and fight against Prithvi Raj and promised him the help of himself and the Solanki kings. When Shivaji was fighting for the liberation of Hindus, the other Maratha noblemen and the Rajput kings were fighting the battle on the side of Moghul Emperors. When the British were trying to destroy the Sikh Rulers, Gulab Singh, their principal commander sat silent and did not help to save the Sikh kingdom. In 1857, when a large part of India had declared a war of independence against the British, the Sikhs stood and watched the event as silent spectators."

On the question of India

embracing democratic form of the government and whether the democratic Constitution will survive the test of time and whether India will be able to maintain it or will she lose it again, he had very convincing answers. He said, "It is not that India did not know what is Democracy. There was a time when India was studded with republics and even where there were monarchies. They were either elected or limited. They were never absolute. It is not that India did not know Parliaments or Parliamentary Procedure. A study of the Buddhist Bhikshu Sanghas discloses that not only there were parliaments - for the Sanghas were nothing but Parliaments - but the Sanghas knew and observed all the rules of Parliamentary Procedure known to modern times. They had rules regarding seating arrangements, rules regarding Motions, Resolutions, Quorum, Whip, Counting of votes, voting by Ballot, Censure Motion, Regularization, Res Judicata, etc. Although these rules of Parliamentary Procedure were applied by the Buddha to the meetings of the Sanghas, he must have borrowed them from the rules of the political Assemblies functioning in the country in his time."

Envisioning the divisions that may be created by democratic form of government and parliamentary democracy, he was anxious to guard India's unity and independence at any cost. He was aware of the different factors in the society which might strengthen centripetal tendencies yet he had faith in the democratic

institutions that were deeply rooted in Indian ethos since ancient times. Exhorting the people of India to guard the hard earned independence he said, "Will history repeat itself? It is this thought which fills me with anxiety. This anxiety is depend by the realization of the fact that in addition to our old enemies in the form of castes and creeds we are going to have many political parties with diverse and opposing political creeds. Will Indians place the country above their creed or will they place creed above country? I do not know. But this much is certain that if the parties place creed above country our independence will be put in jeopardy a second time and probably be lost for ever. This eventually we must all resolutely guard against. We must be determined to defend our independence with the last drop of our blood."

As a nationalist Babasaheb always attempted to keep national interest at the foremost. His relentless championing the cause of deprived and depressed sections of the society has resulted in his image being stereotyped around certain issues mainly looking at him as a *Dalit* icon and relegating his other contributions to background. Babasaheb was a mass leader, political and social thinker, academician, scholar and above all a nationalist rooted in the cultural ethos of Indian civilization. While the country feels indebted for his immense contributions in the nation building process, many other aspects of his multifaceted personality remains yet to be explored. ■

Sages, teachers and farmers have made this country : Narendra Modi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi replying in the Rajya Sabha to the debate on the President's address on 03 March, 2015 said, that all of us should pass the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. He said the sages, teachers and farmers have made this country. Governments have not made this country. We just come, run the system and go away. Therefore, kindly do not force us to live with the ideology with which you have lived. Following is the synopsis of the speech delivered by the Prime Minister Shri Modi :

We have equal responsibility towards states which we represent. It would be our collective responsibility and we would not shun away from it for progress of this country. Law should be allowed to take its own course. Here, people also say that nothing is new, schemes are old. I had stated this in that House also and I am stating this in this House also. Schemes are new or old; this discussion will take us far away. The issue is that the problems are old. The concern is for problems and to find ways for the solution of problems. We are not of this thinking that since we are here, God has given all the knowledge to us only. Nobody can boast of being complete.

Therefore this is not our line of thought. This House would have never heard that after sitting on treasury bench those who are seated that side



have ever said that anybody else had contributed in the advancement of this country. Those who are not willing to give the credit of freedom movement to anybody, how can they accept participation of anybody else in the journey of development? But I am here who had declared it from the rampart of Red Fort that all the Governments till date, all the Prime Ministers till date and all the State Governments have contributed to the

advancement of the country. We even do not feel that the country was born on 15th August, 1947. This country is here since centuries, since thousands of years. The sages, teachers and farmers have made this country. Governments have not made this country. We just come, run the system and go away. Therefore, kindly do not force us to live with the ideology with which you have lived.

You mentioned about schemes. I am just telling you. I can go a long way; can go up to 1984, 1986. But I will not take that much time. When NDA Government was in power, a scheme was there Multipurpose National Identity Card Project. You came in power, that scheme became AADHAR- UIDAI. The same scheme came in new colours and forms. At the time of Vajpayee ji there was Sampurna Gramin Yojana.

During your regime it became MNREGA. During the regime of Atal ji there was Freedom of Information Act. You came and named it Right to Information Act. During the regime of Atal ji there was Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Clause 86 Constitution Amendment.

You changed it to Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act. During the period of Atal ji there was Swarnim Jayanti Gram Swaraj Yojana, you brought National Rural

BJP. If BJP represents Kuchh; Arunachal Pradesh is also represented by BJP. There was a time when you used to think that they are Hindi belt people. But we have been successful in forming Government in South also. Sometimes an allegation is levelled against us that only upper caste people are in this party, but having seen me you might have changed your thought.

There are some states where tribes are more in

many years where Sikhs are decisive.

Therefore, sometimes think practical. The perceptions which you keep on talking about are very old things. Time has changed. Let us take 'Swachhata Abhiyan'. Whether it is a programme for Corporate, for rich people? In 'Jan-Dhan Yojna', bank accounts were opened for poor people. Is this programme for corporate world? If we say 'toilets in schools'- which schools are these? These are Government run schools where children of poor people, children of those living in clusters go to study. There are no toilets. I am talking of toilets; I am working in this direction. Whether this programme is for rich people, for corporate? I am talking about 'Soil Health Card'.

For which farmer is this? This is the farmer who owns little land. We resort to coal auction, and the money which comes from coal auction will go to these states only. Because coal is with them only and this will give them a good deal of strength to fight against poverty and for the advancement of the State. Whether all these things are being done for rich people or corporate world?

Let us take cleanliness of river Ganga. Forty per cent population of this country is directly or indirectly connected with Ganga from economic point of view. Cleanliness of Ganga can be a

While today BJP represents Laddakh; Kanya Kumari is also represented by BJP. If BJP represents Kuchh; Arunachal Pradesh is also represented by BJP. There was a time when you used to think that they are Hindi belt people. But we have been successful in forming Government in South also. Sometimes an allegation is levelled against us that only upper caste people are in this party, but having seen me you might have changed your thought.

Livelihood Mission. During the period of Atal ji there was Total Sanitation Scheme; you came and named it as Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan. During the time of Atal ji there was Insurance Regulatory Authority and Development Act and you named it as Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Act.

How problems arise in political life as a result of taking decisions on the basis of perceptions. We cannot go on the basis of perceptions only. You see, while today BJP represents Laddakh; Kanya Kumari is also represented by

number. Be it Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan or be it Gujarat. These are the states where maximum population is of tribes and this tribal society has given power to BJP. You are also aware that BJP is in power with full majority in Goa where Christians have decisive votes. BJP Government is in power in Nagaland where maximum votes are of Christians. We are sharing power in Jammu & Kashmir where Muslim votes are decisive. We are sharing power in Punjab for

matter of faith for someone, it can be a matter of environment for someone, but it is a big programme also. The whole world, even the richest country in the world is working with full focus on one subject and that is the skill development. It is our responsibility to work in this direction properly. If there will be skill, I understand that the youth of our country will emerge as a big force to take this country to new heights. Therefore, skill development is a programme to be focussed for common man and poorest man of India.

Let us take Housing for All'. Who are these homeless people? Whether they are corporate people? They are poor people. We are making efforts to provide homes to poor. Our effort is to build three crores of homes in villages and two crores of homes in cities. There cannot be any political agenda in this. This is not the programme of this Government. This is the programme of the poor of this country. It is such a big devolution that if this money is spent for infrastructure, for the development, you will see the economy of that state will start generating. I would insist that you are Hon'ble Members who represent States. When such a huge amount has been given to States, you have to see that it is utilized for the development in real terms.

A MUDRA scheme has been mentioned in this

budget. We see that no study has been conducted to find out the fact as to who runs the economy of the country really. Common man of the country gives employment, engages in self-employment and runs the economy of the country as well. There are auto-rickshaw repairing mechanics, there are auto-rickshaw drivers and there are auto-rickshaw owners. Likewise, there will be scooter

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repairing mechanic, cycle repairing mechanic, there will be fruit seller and bread seller; all these are common men.

There are more than five and half crore such units which provide employment to eleven-twelve crore people. But if they require money, there is no arrangement. For the first time, this Government has brought this 'MUDRA' (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) scheme under which only this class will get fund. This is such a new area over which we have focussed. Around fifty-four per cent people do business in rural areas and run their small businesses. Forty-six per cent

are in cities and of those working out of this, sixty per cent either belongs to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes or OBC.

Out of 125 crore people only 29 crores have Life Insurance cover and only 19 crore people have Accidental Death Insurance cover. Only 6 crore people have Organised Pension Scheme cover. Besides, arrangements are there for providing a

pension from 300 to 1500 to three crore widows or senior citizens under BPL category. This arrangement is quite normal in such a big country. We are trying to take a big step to solve a big problem. I think that we are trying to touch all classes of society under 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Beema Yojana', 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana' and 'Atal Pension Yojana'.

The farmers of our country will benefit from the pension scheme. We have made a new effort regarding "gold bond". Now gold coin and gold biscuit will have the Emblem of Ashoka Chakra and it should have access in the world also. We want to

proceed in that direction. We talk about sovereign gold mine. Today gold is lying unused in the form of dead money. We want to bring it into circulation so that the economy gets a great boost. Similarly we want to proceed in the matter of sovereign gold bond. So it would be an effort to balance our imbalance regarding import-export. This is a scheme which in my opinion would be very beneficial. Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad expressed great pain with regard to transfer of officers. But when they were in power they had transferred many officers unceremoniously.

Our effort is to provide good governance. Both Railways and Highways come under the Government but earlier there used to be so many tussles between the two that more than 350 projects of Highways were not given approval by the Railways and the projects of Railways were not cleared by the Highways. We called a meeting of both the departments and an MOU was signed between the two. Today we have created an online portal wherein online clearance is given. During our 9 month tenure we have constructed longer highways and more new railway lines and done more gauge conversion and more doubling work than the UPA government.

With regard to Model

Our effort is to provide good governance. Both Railways and Highways come under the Government but earlier there used to be so many tussles between the two that more than 350 projects of Highways were not given approval by the Railways and the projects of Railways were not cleared by the Highways. We called a meeting of both the departments and an MOU was signed between the two. Today we have created an online portal wherein online clearance is given.

village scheme, I want to welcome and thank some Hon'ble members. Around 660 MPs have taken this programme forward. Hon'ble Motilal Vora has done remarkable work in Mohali village in Chhattisgarh. He has opened Jan-Dhan accounts of all ration cardholders and linked them with Aadhar card. He constituted monitoring committees for government distribution shops so that the benefits of PDS system reach the poor people. The MP from Jorhat has made perfect arrangements for the monitoring of

ICDS and mid day meal scheme. Our Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Ashok adopted a village in Andhra Pradesh for making it alcohol free. I think that if we all co-operate

in Model village scheme then only this can be taken forward. 27 thousand crores rupees of labourers are there in government exchequer. We have tried to make a scheme called Universal Account Number. Under this scheme wherever a laborer goes, his money with this account number would be transferred there. As a result of this, if he is having any old account in 27 thousand crore rupees, it would also be transferred. Regarding fertilizers, I would like to say there is no reason for lagging behind in the sale of manure, Regarding Aadhar card and MNREGA, we carried out more Aadhar based transfers, linked more Aadhar numbers with MNREGA and linked more job cards with Aadhar in our 9 month tenure than the UPA government. We have talked about providing 100 days guarantee of employment to the poor under MNREGA.

We have tried to bring change in the life of common man during this period. There was a mention of West Bengal also. The people, who wanted to run the country with imported ideas, got the opportunity to rule West Bengal for thirty years. West Bengal which used to be the capital of industrial activity once has perished totally in these thirty years.

There is a need for job creation in the country. For this we will have to pursue

the mantra of Make in India. We should stress upon infrastructure to increase the possibilities of employment. The President has mentioned about digital India in his Address. I think that in the coming days digital divide can also become one of the reasons for poverty and backwardness.

We want to proceed towards mobile governance. We want to provide its facility on mobile to the poorest of poor also. We also talk about digital India. Whether our BPO centres should function in Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai and Ahmedabad only or these centres should be provided to the youth of North-East also. Our effort is to proceed in that direction to provide employment to the youth of our country. Everybody has expressed concerns regarding black money.

This is a subject which nobody wanted to touch some time back. The Supreme Court had asked to constitute a SIT in 2011. Had it been constituted at that time only and the process had started, then the people would have not got time for transactions. But we are committed to bring back black money in the country and we would complete that process. In connection with Land Acquisition Ordinance, I want to assure you that there is no anti farmers provision in

this. At the same time I want to request you all not to spread this propaganda that we are going to reduce the compensation.

It is difficult for the States to work under this law. To protect the responsibilities of the States is also your responsibility. Through this new law, an effort has been made to bring changes according to hopes and aspirations of the States. We should worry about the farmers of our country and give them protection. The Government has not decided to cut down the coverage of poor people which is 67 per cent with regard to food security. Please do not spread such misconception.

Due to this new 42 per

I want to give an assurance to this House that Jammu and Kashmir Government has been formed on the basis of a common minimum programme and it will work on that basis only. With regard to terrorism, this Government would proceed with the policy of zero tolerance. I welcome our citizens of Kashmir. We have confidence in them. I want to assure the whole nation through this House that the motions which have been passed by the Houses of our country for Kashmir will be followed in letter and spirit.

cent devolution, all the States will be getting more money. The royalty for minerals has been raised by one and half times which will be going to mostly Eastern States. States are going to get money from coal auction also. 62 per cent of the total amount will be with the States and only 38 per cent will remain with the Centre.

Our central point is to protect the interests of India. With regard to international relations, our thinking is clear that we want to build our relations with the world. We want to have special and deep relations with our neighbors but we will not bow to any pressure. I want to give an assurance to this House that Jammu and Kashmir Government has been formed on the basis of a common minimum programme and it will work on that basis only. With regard to terrorism, this Government would proceed with the policy of zero tolerance. I welcome our citizens of Kashmir. We have confidence in them. I want to assure the whole nation through this House that the motions which have been passed by the Houses of our country for Kashmir will be followed in letter and spirit. There would be no compromise regarding that. I once again request the House that we should together pass the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address unanimously. ■