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16 Shravana, 1941 (Saka)

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

RAJYA SABHA

OFFICIAL REPORT

(FLOOR VERSION)

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RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 7th August, 2019/16th Shravana, 1941 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I rise in deep sorrow and with a heavy heart to inform the House of the sudden demise of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, a former Member of Rajya Sabha, and former Union Minister, last night.

Destiny has snatched an assuring and contagious smile from our midst.

She was a Member of this House for three terms — from April, 1990 to April, 1996; from April, 2000 to April, 2006; and again from April, 2006 to May, 2009. She was also elected four times to the Lok Sabha in 1996, 1998, 2009 and 2014. She was first elected to the Haryana Legislative Assembly in 1977.

As Union Minister, she held the important portfolios of External Affairs, Health and Family Welfare, Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting and acquitted herself admirably winning acclaim across political spectrum.

As a legislator and Minister in the Union and Haryana Governments, and with her commitment and devotion to the cause of the people and the country in her four decade long stint in public life, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj emerged as a role model.

As a Minister of External Affairs, she imparted a human touch to that Ministry by being in the forefront of rescuing Indians in distress in several parts of the world. She had come to be known as the most accessible Minister, which speaks of her concern for and commitment to the people.

Shrimati Swaraj had several firsts to her credit.

She was the youngest Minister at the age of 25 years in the Haryana Government in 1977.

She was the first woman to be the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha.

She was also the first woman Outstanding Parliamentarian.

Shrimati Swaraj was the first woman Chief Minister of Delhi in 1998.

From the youngest Minister, she rose to become the first full time Minister of External Affairs under the present Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

Born on February 14, 1952 in Ambala Cantonment in Haryana, the 67 year old Shrimati Swaraj studied Law in Punjab University. The call of direct service to the people drew her into public life. She participated in the movement led by late Shri Jaiprakash Narayan and was elected to the Haryana Legislative Assembly after the Emergency in 1977. Since then, she took up several electoral challenges with a smile, demonstrating grit and grace, both in victory and defeat.

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj was a very effective orator with equal felicity in both Hindi and English languages, and left an inerasable imprint of her, both within and outside the Parliament.

A couple of hours before she breathed her last, her public message, after Lok Sabha passed the Bill related to Jammu and Kashmir yesterday, was, and I quote; "I was waiting to see this day in my life-time." This clearly demonstrated her commitment for 'One India-One Constitution'.

The untimely demise of Shrimati Swaraj was a personal loss to me.

She was like my sister who always addressed me as 'Anna' (elder brother).

She was a regular at family and cultural events at my residence for a long time. Every year, on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, she used to tie 'Rakhi' on my hand. I would be missing this honour this year. This year, as usual, I wanted to go to her house to tie Rakhi. She telephoned to me saying, 'please don't come.' I said, 'why'? She said, 'now, you are the Vice-President of the country. You are not supposed to come to my house. I will come to your house and get the Rakhi tied.' So, she came and then tied the Rakhi. I have lost a valuable sister in her demise, which is an irreparable loss to me.

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj was grace, grit, affection, amiability and ability personified. In her untimely demise, the nation has lost an able administrator, an effective parliamentarian, and a true voice of the people. She always dreamt of an India at its highest glory.

I hope the words and deeds of this exemplary leader will continue to inspire all those in public life.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj.

I request Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

MESSAGES FROM LOK SABHA

(I) The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019

(II) The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following messages received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:—

(I)

“In accordance with provisions of rule 120 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to inform you that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on the 6th August, 2019, agreed without any amendment to the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, 2019, which was passed by Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 5th August, 2019.”

(II)

“I am directed to inform you that on 6th August, 2019, the Minister in charge of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019, which was passed by Rajya Sabha on the 5th August, 2019 and laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on the same day, proposed that the Rajya Sabha will be requested to permit withdrawal of the Bill, to which the House agreed.”

GOVERNMENT BILL

Regarding Withdrawal of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019 in Lok Sabha

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a request to make. The Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019, was passed by Rajya Sabha on the 5th August, 2019 and I laid it on the Table of the Lok Sabha on

[Shri G. Kishan Reddy]

the same day. However, on 6th August, 2019, a request was made to the Lok Sabha that permission may be granted to withdraw the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019. The Lok Sabha has already agreed to the request of the hon. Home Minister regarding the withdrawal of the Bill. Therefore, I request that the leave may be granted to the Lok Sabha to withdraw the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019, as passed by the Rajya Sabha.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The issue is that the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019, which was passed by Rajya Sabha on 5th August, 2019, transmitted to Lok Sabha, needs to be withdrawn by the Government. The proposal of the Minister for withdrawal has already been agreed to by the Lok Sabha on 6th August, 2019 and a message to this effect has been reported.

Does the House agree to the leave being granted to withdraw the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019 in Lok Sabha?

(No hon. Member dissented)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I presume that the House agrees for the withdrawal of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019 in Lok Sabha as it has become redundant after the passage of the other Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, today is the last day of the current Session of Rajya Sabha. Except one legislation, which is very important because of the Centenary year of Jalianwala Bagh, I have decided to adjourn the House after the passage of the Bill relating to this is over, both as a mark of respect to the departed leader as also because we have completed our Business. The concerned Culture Minister may move it now. It has been agreed to pass it without discussion.

The Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019

संस्कृति मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री और पर्यटन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रहलाद सिंह पटेल):
आदरणीय सभापति महोदय, मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ:—

“कि जलियांवालाबाग राष्ट्रीय स्मारक अधिनियम, 1951 का और संशोधन करने के लिए विधेयक पर, लोक सभा द्वारा पारित रूप में, विचार किया जाए।”

MR. CHAIRMAN: As there is a broad consensus not to have discussion...

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, at least, the Minister may explain what the Bill is about.

श्री प्रहलाद सिंह पटेल: सभापति महोदय, जलियांवाला बाग राष्ट्रीय स्मारक (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2019 में तीन बहुत छोटे संशोधन हैं।

1. इस अधिनियम का संक्षिप्त नाम जलियांवाला बाग राष्ट्रीय स्मारक (संशोधन) अधिनियम, 2019 है।
2. जलियांवाला बाग राष्ट्रीय स्मारक अधिनियम, 1951 (जिसे इसमें इसके पश्चात् मूल अधिनियम कहा गया है) की धारा 4 की उपधारा 1 में,—
 - (i) खंड (ख) का लोप किया जाएगा; जिसमें पार्टी विशेष के अध्यक्ष को designate किया गया था।
 - (ii) खंड (घ) के स्थान पर निम्नलिखित खंड रखा जाएगा, अर्थात्:—

“(घ) लोक सभा में इस रूप में मान्यताप्राप्त विरोधी दल का नेता या जहां ऐसा कोई विरोधी दल का नेता नहीं है, वहां उस सदन में सबसे बड़े एकल विरोधी दल का नेता;”
3. मूल अधिनियम की धारा 5 में निम्नलिखित परंतुक अंतःस्थापित किया जाएगा, अर्थात्:—

“परंतु केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा धारा 4 की उपधारा (1) के खंड (छ) के अधीन नामनिर्देशित किसी न्यासी की पदावधि को पांच वर्ष की अवधि के अवसान से पहले समाप्त किया जा सकेगा।”

माननीय सभापति महोदय, ये छोटे-छोटे तीन संशोधन हैं। चूंकि यह जलियांवाला बाग का शताब्दी वर्ष है, इसलिए जो वर्ष 2006 में संशोधन हुआ था, वैसे भी उसमें जो प्रधान मंत्री होंगे, वे इसके अध्यक्ष होंगे। इसमें कल्चर मिनिस्टर हैं और नेता प्रतिपक्ष के संबंध में मैं आज जो अमेंडमेंट लेकर आया हूँ कि यदि संख्या पूरी नहीं है, मान्यता नहीं है तो सबसे बड़े दल का जो नेता होगा, वह उसके स्थान पर होगा। उसके बाद वहां के मुख्य मंत्री, वहां के राज्यपाल और भारत सरकार के द्वारा nominated तीन सदस्य होंगे, उनके कार्यकाल को पहले 5 वर्ष परिभाषित किया गया था, उसकी जगह पर संशोधन है कि उसको उससे पहले समाप्त किया जाए। कुल मिलाकर यह एक राष्ट्रीय अवसर है। जब हम शताब्दी वर्ष में बैठे हैं, तो मुझे लगता है कि इन संस्थाओं का पूरी तरह से राष्ट्रीयकरण होना चाहिए। इस नाते ये छोटे संशोधन आपके माध्यम से इस सदन के सामने हैं। मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि इसको सर्वसम्मति से पारित करें।

The question was proposed.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Gujarat): Yes, the Minister must tell us why he is bringing this Bill.

श्री सभापति: आनन्द शर्मा जी।

श्री आनन्द शर्मा (हिमाचल प्रदेश): हम आज के दिन किसी भी तरह की ऐसी चर्चा नहीं चाहते, जिससे सदन के आखिरी दिन कोई भी कटुता हो। मैं नहीं समझता और मेरे दल की भी

[श्री आनन्द शर्मा]

यही राय है कि आज कोई ऐसी आवश्यकता नहीं थी, कि इस बिल को अंतिम दिन लाना ज़रूरी था। भारत की आज़ादी के संग्राम के साथ, जलियांवाला बाग हत्याकांड के साथ राष्ट्र की भावनाएं जुड़ी हैं, जो बड़े महत्व की बात है। माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी भी इस सदन में मौजूद हैं। यह पूरे देश के लिए सुनना और जानना ज़रूरी है कि जिन्होंने संघर्ष किए, हमारे जो भी नेता शहीद हुए, राजनैतिक दल, व्यवस्था आदि, उनका स्मरण और उनका नमन राष्ट्र का कर्तव्य है। आज वर्ष 2019 में जब हम शताब्दी की बात कर रहे हैं, तो हम वर्ष 1919 को नहीं भूल सकते। यह एक वास्तविकता है कि उस समय राष्ट्रीय आंदोलन का नेतृत्व भारतीय राष्ट्रीय कांग्रेस ने किया था, उसको स्वीकार करने में कोई संकोच नहीं होना चाहिए, न ही कोई ऐसा संशोधन होना चाहिए। सरकार को बड़प्पन दिखाना चाहिए, यह एक ट्रस्ट की बात है। मैं आज भी इस बात को कहता हूँ कि देश के लिए ये चीजें अच्छी नहीं हैं। अगर हम हर चीज़ पर लकीर खीचें और इस तरह की बात, जो ऐतिहासिक तथ्य और सत्य दोनों हों, उनको हम आने वाली पीढ़ियों तक न जाने दें और जब 100 साल मनाए जाएं, जब पूरे देश की तरफ से 100 साल मनाए जाएं, तो उस 100 साल को मनाने में जिस दल ने राष्ट्रीय आंदोलन की अगुवाई की हो, उसको बाहर करना-मैं समझता हूँ कि इस पर पुनर्विचार होना चाहिए। इसके अतिरिक्त अम्बिका जी कुछ कहना चाहती हैं।

श्री सभापति: आपने बोल दिया है, और क्या बोलना है?...**(व्यवधान)**...सब लोगों को चर्चा करनी है तो कीजिए, no problem. ...**(Interruptions)**...He is also from Punjab. The point is, if you want to have a normal discussion, it is okay.

SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA (Punjab): We must have a discussion on this. Don't allow this to be passed like this. Our sentiments are there. सर, पंजाब वालों के साथ हमारे sentiments हैं। Give us time to discuss. Sir, this is unfortunate. Our sentiments are with them. हमारी कुर्बानी है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: My point is, if you want to have a discussion, then it has to be taken up in the next Session only.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; THE MINISTER OF COAL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Sir, I have discussed with many party leaders.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is the Centenary year.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, this being the Centenary Year, I appeal to them that let us pass this Bill. There is a provision in the Bill that when there is no Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, the leader of the single largest opposition party will be in the Trust. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI (Punjab): No, no. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR (Himachal Pradesh): No, Sir. ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: No, Sir. ...(Interruptions)...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, let me complete. ...(Interruptions)... I am making an appeal. ...(Interruptions)... Hon. Chairman has requested you that after passing of this Bill, he would to adjourn the House *sine die*. ...(Interruptions)... Sir, let me complete. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Sir, I want to say something on this. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: At least, you listen to my appeal. ...(Interruptions)...

PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA (Karnataka): Why have you brought this Bill now? ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, at least, you listen to my appeal. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not permitted anybody else. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Why has he brought it now? ...(Interruptions)... What is the hurry to bring it now? ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has made the point. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: We have no other intention. ...(Interruptions)... Session was supposed to run up to evening 5 o'clock or 6 o'clock. ...(Interruptions)... That is why I appeal to you. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री राज बब्बर (उत्तराखंड): आप लोग प्यार से बोलिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Parliamentary Affairs Minister, some of them are not willing. Then, what to do? ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, in that case, let us discuss and vote it. ...(Interruptions)... There is no other option. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, you are editing the history! ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, we will go by today's Agenda. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, we had requested. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Sir, we want discussion on this. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RIPUN BORA (Assam): Why have you brought this Bill now?
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam Ambika Soniji, please listen to me for a minute. ...(Interruptions)... We had requested many leaders. ...(Interruptions)... Please listen to me. ...(Interruptions)... I am requesting you to listen to me for a minute. ...(Interruptions)...

श्री सभापति: सब लोग ऐसे प्यार से ही बात कीजिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, this is the Centenary Year. We have to reconstitute the Trust and many Trustees have to be nominated. The tenure of the Trust has already been expired. There are so many issues. We want to reconstitute it. ...(Interruptions)... Let me complete. ...(Interruptions)... Let me complete. We have to reconstitute the Trust. ...(Interruptions)... And, for reconstitution, we have to pass this Bill. ...(Interruptions)... So, I appeal to you to pass this Bill. We will have another Session in November. ...(Interruptions)... Please listen to me. ...(Interruptions)... We will be having one more Session in November. We can have a full-fledged discussion on Jallianwala Bagh. ...(Interruptions)... So, I appeal to them to pass this Bill. ...(Interruptions)... After that, as per your appeal, we can adjourn the House. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ram Gopalji. बाकी लोग भी बताइए। ...(Interruptions)... I have to take a view either way. ...(Interruptions)...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): सभापति महोदय, मैंने आज प्रारंभ में ही आपसे कहा था कि श्रीमती सुषमा जी का निधन हो गया है और हम सब लोग दुखी हैं। सदन में ऐसी कोई बात नहीं होनी चाहिए जो acrimonious हो। लेकिन, यह जो बिल है, इसमें मेरी व्यक्तिगत राय यह है कि किसी भी ट्रस्ट का या किसी institution का जो office-bearer हो, वह हमेशा *ex-officio* ही होना चाहिए। सर, न कोई व्यक्ति permanent Prime Minister रहेगा और न ही कोई व्यक्ति permanent Leader of Opposition रहेगा। जब जो उस समय रहेंगे, तब वे उसके अध्यक्ष होंगे, यही व्यवस्था इसमें की गई है।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Misraji, do you want to say something?

श्री सतीश चन्द्र मिश्रा (उत्तर प्रदेश): सभापति महोदय, अभी प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव जी ने जो कहा है, हम उससे सहमत हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Derekji. Let us confine to this only.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, there are only three options available from what I have heard. One is, we do not take up the Bill today. The second one is, we take up the Bill, have discussion and pass it. And, the third one is: Is there a third option? ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: Sir, I wish to say something. ...(*Interruptions*)...
Sir, give me an opportunity to say something. ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Leaders of all parties are being given an opportunity. Your leader has also been given an opportunity. ...(*Interruptions*)...If there is discussion, you will get an opportunity. If it is not there and there is consensus, then there ends the matter. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Odisha): Sir, the nation is mourning today due to death of Sushmaji and the nation should not witness acrimony in the House today itself. Therefore, my appeal is that all these things should be avoided today. Either we pass the Bill, or, as suggested by Mr. Derek, we should defer it for the next session. Or, if you want to pass it, you pass it without any discussion. ...(*Interruptions*)...Thank you.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, we are mourning and we have a kind of solemn atmosphere here. And, Sir, nothing should be done which is going to disturb or violate such situation. If you defer it, it will be fine. Thank you.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, in view of the sad demise of Sushma Swarajji and also keeping in view the importance of the centenary year of Jallianwala Bagh, I am of the view that this Bill should be passed without discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri T. K. Rangarajan. Just give your viewpoint. We are not discussing the merits here.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, today we are mourning the passing away of Shrimati Sushma Swarajji. This morning, I went to her house also. She was very close to me. So, I think, we should not pass any Bill today. We can postpone this Bill to the next Session. We have to discuss about what had happened in the Jallianwala Bagh.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Discussion on Jallianwala Bagh is different. And, this Bill is different.

Now, Shri T. K. S. Elangovan.

SHRI T. K. S. ELANGOVAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also concur with my colleagues that, in this situation, there need not be any acrimony among Members. So, it would be better not to take up the Bill today. It can be postponed to the next Session.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I was not present here, but I strongly feel that this is not an occasion to take up this Bill. We are mourning the sad demise of one of the tallest leaders of the country, Sushma Swarajji. And, we are all together in that mourning. It is sad news for all of us, whether it is this side or that side or the centre.

There should not be any fight on such an occasion. I think, when we are not going to have any other Business, we can defer this Business to the next Session. I think, heaven is not going to fall in the next two-three months. My submission would be to the hon. Prime Minister also that, at least, we should not fight today on such an issue. It will not give good impression outside the House.

विधि और न्याय मंत्री; संचार मंत्री तथा इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी और सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री (श्री रविशंकर प्रसाद): सभापति महोदय, आज का दिन वेदना का है, पीड़ा का है। मैं सदन के विचारों से बिल्कुल सहमत हूँ। जैसा माननीय संसदीय कार्य मंत्री जी ने बताया है कि यह जलियांवाला बाग का शताब्दी वर्ष है। 1919 में जलियांवाला बाग की जो त्रासदी हुई थी, उससे पूरा राष्ट्र आक्रोशित हुआ था। उस आक्रोश को हम इस शताब्दी वर्ष में प्रकट करना चाहते हैं और इसमें पूरा देश शामिल है। जैसा अभी कहा गया है, जो कांग्रेस पार्टी की भूमिका रही है, उसे देश ने देखा है और दुनिया ने भी देखा है, हम सभी ने देखा है, लेकिन किसी बड़ी पार्टी की बड़ी भूमिका के लिए एक composition को लेकर उसको जोड़ा जाए, यह सोचने की बात है। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री प्रताप सिंह बाजवा: सर, ...**(व्यवधान)**...

कुमारी शैलजा: यह किसने कहा है...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: प्लीज़, मैंने अभी किसी को बोलने का मौका नहीं दिया। The Leader of the Opposition has spoken. ...**(Interruptions)**...

कुमारी शैलजा (हरियाणा): सर, यह गलत कहा गया है...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री सभापति: यह गलत है या सही है, यह हम तय करेंगे। उन्हें अपना view बताने दीजिए, इसमें क्या बात है?

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: सर, इस शताब्दी वर्ष के महत्व को देखते हुए, आज के दिन मैं सदन से आग्रह करूंगा कि इसको पास किया जाए, लेकिन नवम्बर के समय में इस जलियांवाला बाग के विषय पर व्यापक चर्चा हो, हम इसके लिए पूरी तरह से तैयार हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: They are not ready for it. ...**(Interruptions)**... I don't want any other discussion. They are not ready. The Congress Party is not ready. ...**(Interruptions)**... Do you want to say what I have to say? ...**(Interruptions)**...

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN: Nobody is saying that, Sir. ...**(Interruptions)**...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not named anybody. ...*(Interruptions)*... If you Members want to talk like this, I want to leave it. I don't want to do anything. ...*(Interruptions)*...

AN HON. MEMBER: Please continue, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Some Members think that they are superior and above Chairman and want to go on making running commentary, in spite of the Leaders having spoken in the beginning itself. I leave it to them. Fine enough. Let the country watch them. Let the live telecast also be on. I already have a feeling inside. It is my fault; I should have held a ballot. I was told that the matter has been discussed with all the parties and they all, including the Congress Party, are agreed to pass it without discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*... If you want to have further discussion, I leave it to you. Raviji, do you want to say something else? You were talking about the other Bill. What is that?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: The other Bill is a very small Bill, Sir. We are increasing the number of Supreme Court Judges by only three. ...*(Interruptions)*... It had been done in the past also. We can take a larger issue of discussion on the Judiciary later on. I am open to that. But, this simple Bill for increasing the number of Supreme Court Judges by just three more...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please hear him. If you have a different view, you can speak later on.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Even my friends from the Opposition know this. Earlier, it was 13. Then, it was raised to 17.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't go into details. What is your plea?

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, my plea is that it is a simple Bill, just to add three more numbers to the Supreme Court Judges. It may be passed by the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there agreement?

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, we have no objection as far as the increase of three more numbers to the Supreme Court Judges is concerned. It is a welcome step. But this is also a matter on which the Members of Parliament would like to discuss. We normally don't discuss the Judiciary here. So, you get a time once in six years or once in a decade or may be once in 20 years when the Judiciary *per se* can be discussed. As far as increase in the number of judges is concerned, the Congress Party is with the Government.

[Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad]

We are not against it. But, then, we have a huge battery of lawyers this side and that side. We would also like to know what is happening in the Judiciary, how it is functioning and how it can be further improved. So, otherwise, standalone, you can never discuss about the Judiciary, its functioning, etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right. For the information of the hon. Members, I think, I have already made an announcement in the House that the hon. Speaker of the Lok Sabha has already declared this as a Money Bill. You know what will happen to this Bill. Whether we agree or disagree, what will happen, you all know of it. So, I don't want to make any further comments. I hope the Law Minister will understand this.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, can you allow one or two Members to speak on this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have no problem. But, then, they will say, who are those one or two? Why those parties only? Nowadays, that is the system.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Sir, nobody will. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: If the hon. LoP allows me, we are also proposing in the Bill that the expenditure on three hon. judges, the additional numbers, which comes to ₹ 6,81,54,528, is to be drawn from the Consolidated Fund of India. This is a textbook Money Bill. But, I want to assure from my side, if the hon. Chairman agrees for a discussion on the working of Judiciary or law, we can have it in November. I am willing for that. If you don't pass this Bill today, even otherwise, it will be deemed to have been passed. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: If that be so, if the hon. Minister is ready to discuss, on some other occasion, the functioning and working of Judiciary, of course, within the contours of the Constitution; we are not, or nobody here is, for abusing the Judiciary, or, the Supreme Court, for that matter. Now, with an assurance from the Minister, we can have it some other time in the next Session.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I said, 'subject to rule'.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Good. Anyway, if the Government is willing, the Chair will take a decision.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Okay, Sir.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: Sir, you are increasing it to 33. I have only one request, which I have been repeatedly making earlier also, that please consider the representation of the Scheduled Castes in this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Right.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: Please do that. We are suffering because of that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Leader of the House.

सभा के नेता (श्री थावरचन्द गहलोत): सभापति महोदय, जैसाकि संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्री जी ने बताया है, जलियांवाला बाग राष्ट्रीय स्मारक बिल अत्यधिक महत्वपूर्ण बिल है और उसे अगर आज ही बिना चर्चा के पारित कर दिया जाए, तो बहुत अच्छा होगा। इसके साथ-ही-साथ, आदरणीय रवि शंकर प्रसाद जी सुप्रीम कोर्ट में तीन जजों की संख्या बढ़ाने के संबंध में बिल ला रहे हैं। इन दोनों बिलों को यदि बिना चर्चा के पारित कर दिया जाए, तो अच्छा होगा।

श्री सभापति: वह हो गया। The Judges' Bill, either we discuss it or not discuss, whether we approve it or not, is going to become a law. But, I am happy the Leader of the Opposition has understood the spirit and others are also supporting that we will have a discussion later. The Government is willing to have the discussion on Judiciary in November. That will be taken up at an appropriate time. So, the Bill can be moved and passed. Hon. Law Minister.

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 2019

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE; THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION AND THE MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): Sir, I move:

That the Bill further to amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I move:

That the Bill be returned.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Papers to be laid on the Table.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

MoU Between Government of India Ministry of Textiles and Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Textiles) and the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, for the year 2019-20.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 669/17/19]

Annual Report and Accounts of North Eastern Institute of Folk Medicine, Pasighat for the year 2017-18 and related papers.

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अश्विनी कुमार चौबे): महोदय, मैं श्री श्रीपद यसो नाईक की ओर से निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेज़ी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the North Eastern Institute of Folk Medicine, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh, for the year 2017-18, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 671/17/19]

Notifications of the Department of Personnel

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSION; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Sir, I lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (Department of Personnel and Training):—

- (1) G.S.R. 457 (E), dated the 16th May, 2018, publishing the All India Services (Death-Cum-Retirement-Benefits) Amendment Rules, 2018, along with delay statement.

- (2) G.S.R. 412 (E), dated the 7th June, 2019, publishing the All India Services (Death-Cum-Retirement-Benefits) Amendment Rules, 2019.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 729/17/19]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Civil Aviation

II. MoU between Department of Commerce and MMTC 2019-20

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

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, under Section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934, along with Explanatory Note:—

(1) G.S.R. 333 (E), dated the 4th April, 2018, publishing the Aircraft (First Amendment) Rules, 2018.

(2) G.S.R. 555 (E), dated the 13th June, 2018, publishing the Aircraft (Second Amendment) Rules, 2018.

(3) G.S.R. 1096 (E), dated the 9th November, 2018, publishing the Aircraft (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2018.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 730/17/19]

- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry) and the MMTC Limited, for the year 2019-20.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 672/17/19]

MoU Between Ministry of Shipping and S.C.P.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Shipping) and the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., for the year 2019-20.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 563/17/19]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;**II. Annual Report and accounts of HSCC India Ltd. (2017-18) and related papers**

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अश्विनी कुमार चौबे): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:—

- I. 1. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Notification F. No. 22-10/NUID/2014-INC, dated the 7th May, 2019, publishing the Indian Nursing Council (Nurses Registration & Tracking System) Regulations, 2019, under sub-section (3) of Section 16 of the Indian Nursing Council Act, 1947.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 600/17/19]

2. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health and Family Welfare), under Section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940:—

- (1) G.S.R. 153 (E), dated the 26th February, 2019, publishing the Drugs and Cosmetics (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2019.
- (2) G.S.R. 186 (E), dated the 7th March, 2019, publishing the Drugs and Cosmetics (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2019.
- (3) G.S.R. 205 (E), dated the 8th March, 2019, publishing the Drugs and Cosmetics (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2019.
- (4) G.S.R. 213 (E), dated the 11th March, 2019, publishing the Drugs and Cosmetics (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2019.
- (5) G.S.R. 224 (E), dated the 19th March, 2019, publishing the Medical Devices (Second Amendment) Rules, 2019.
- (6) G.S.R. 227 (E), dated the 19th March, 2019, publishing the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019.
- (7) G.S.R. 318 (E), dated the 22nd April, 2019, publishing the Medical Devices (Third Amendment) Rules, 2019.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 674/17/19]

- II. (1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) (b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:—

- (a) Thirty-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the HSCC (India) Limited, NOIDA, Uttar Pradesh, [a subsidiary of NBCC (India) Limited], for

the year 2017-18, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 673/17/19]

I. Notification of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

II. Annual Reports and Accounts of Shree Ramana Maharishi Academy for Blind; Social Welfare Centre; Devnar Foundatio for the Blind, Manasika Vikasa Kendran, Uma Education of and Technical Society, Sneha Society for rural reconstruction and related papers

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कृष्ण पाल): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:—

I. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities), Notification No. G.S.R. 209 (E), dated the 11th March, 2019, publishing the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Amendment) Rules, 2019, under sub-section (3) of Section 100 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, along with Explanatory Note.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 603/17/19]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Shree Ramana Maharishi Academy for the Blind, Bengaluru, Karnataka, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Academy.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 679/17/19]

(ii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Social Welfare Centre, Thrissur, Kerala, for the year 2010-11, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Centre.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 731/17/19]

- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Social Welfare Centre, Thrissur, Kerala, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Centre.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (iii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 732/17/19]
- (iv) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Devnar Foundation for the Blind, Secunderabad, Telangana, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Foundation.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (iv) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 677/17/19]
- (v) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Devnar Foundation for the Blind, Secunderabad, Telangana, for the year 2017-18, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Foundation.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (v) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 677/17/19]
- (vi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Manasika Vikasa Kendram, Andhra Pradesh, for the year 2011-12, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Kendram.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (vi) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 676/17/19]
- (vii)(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Manasika Vikasa Kendram, Andhra Pradesh, for the year 2014-15, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Kendram.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (vii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 676/17/19]
- (viii)(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Uma Educational & Technical Society (Uma Manovikasa Kendram), Andhra Pradesh, for the year 2014-15, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Society.

- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (viii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 680/17/19]
- (ix) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Sneha Society for Rural Reconstruction, Nizamabad, Telangana, for the year 2014-15, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Society.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (ix) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 678/17/19]

Annual Reports and Accounts of Port Blair Municipal Council, Port Blair (2015-16) and (2016-17) related papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) (a) Annual Accounts of the Port Blair Municipal Council, Port Blair, for the year 2015-16, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the Annual Accounts of the above Municipal Council.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the paper mentioned at (i) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 634/17/19]
- (ii) (a) Annual Accounts of the Port Blair Municipal Council, Port Blair, for the year 2016-17, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (b) Review by Government on the Annual Accounts of the above Municipal Council.
- (c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the paper mentioned at (ii) (a) above. [Placed in Library. *See* No. L.T. 634/17/19]

I. Notifications of the Ministry of Finance

II. Statement on Half Yearly Review of trends in receipts and Expenditure in relation to the Budget

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): Sir, I lay on the Table:—

- I. (1) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs), Notification No. S.O. 2691 (E), dated the 29th

July, 2019, amending Notification No. S.O. 3755 (E), dated the 27th November, 2017, to substitute/insert certain entries in the original Notification, framed under clause (1) of article 280 of the Constitution of India, read with the provisions contained in the Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 733/17/19]

- (2) A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services), Notification F. No. IRDAI/Reg/9/160/2019, dated the 26th July, 2019, publishing the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Registration of Insurance Marketing Firm) (Amendment) Regulations, 2019, under sub-section (3) of Section 114 A of the Insurance Act 1938; and Section 27 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 734/17/19]

- II. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Statement on Half Yearly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the Budget, at the end of the Financial year 2018-19, under sub-section (1) of Section 7 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 735/17/19]

Notifications of the Ministry of Home Affairs

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री नित्यानन्द राय): महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ:-

- I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Home Affairs, framed under sub-rule (b) of Rule 3 of the Passport (Entry into India) Rules, 1950:-

- (1) S.O. 3676 (E), dated the 27th July, 2018, designating Kattupalli Seaport in Tiruvallur District of Tamil Nadu State as an authorized Immigration Check Post for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 683/17/19]

- (2) S.O. 4154 (E), dated the 25th August, 2018, designating Zokhawthar Land Check Post in Champhai District of Mizoram State as an authorized Immigration Check Post for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 683/17/19]

- (3) S.O. 6390 (E), dated the 31st December, 2018, designating Port Blair Airport of Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands as an authorized Immigration Check Post for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all class of passengers.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 684/17/19]

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Home Affairs, framed under sub-clause (2) of Clause 2 of the Foreigners Orders, 1948:—

- (1) S.O. 3677(E), dated the 27th July, 2018, appointing the Superintendent of Police, Tiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu State as the “Civil Authority” for the purposes of the said order for the Seaport Immigration Check Post located at Kattupalli Seaport of Tiruvallur District in the jurisdiction of Tamil Nadu State with effect from 13.07.2018.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 683/17/19]

- (2) S.O. 4155 (E), dated the 25th August, 2018, appointing the Superintendent of Police, Champhai District, Mizoram as the “Civil Authority” for the purposes of the said order for the Land Immigration Check Post located at Zokhawthar of Champhai District in the jurisdiction of Mizoram State with effect from 13.08.2018.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 683/17/19]

- (3) S.O. 5346 (E), dated the 22nd October, 2018, appointing Chief Immigration Officer, BoI Kannur as the “Civil Authority” for the purpose of the said order for the Immigration Check Post located at Kannur Airport, Kerala with effect from October 15, 2018.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 683/17/19]

- (4) S.O. 6391 (E), dated the 31st December, 2018, appointing the Superintendent of Police, CID, Andaman and Nicobar Police, Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands as the “Civil Authority” for the purposes of the said order for the Immigration Check Post located at Port Blair Airport in the jurisdiction of Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands with effect from 31st December, 2018.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 683/17/19]

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO CENTRAL SILK BOARD

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): Sir, I move the following Motion:—

“That in pursuance of clause (c) of sub-section (3) of Section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948 (LXI of 1948), read with sub-rule (2) of Rule 5 of the Central Silk Board Rules, 1955, this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Chairman may direct, one Member from amongst the Members of the House to be a member of the Central Silk Board to fill up the vacancy caused due to the resignation of Shri Neeraj Shekhar from the membership of Rajya Sabha w.e.f. 15th July, 2019.”

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWER TO QUESTION

Re. Unstarred Question No. 1807 answered on 9th July, 2019

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अश्विनी कुमार चौबे): महोदय, मैं “एक्यूट इंसेफेलाइटिस सिंड्रोम” (चमकी बुखार) से “बच्चों की मृत्यु” के संबंध में 9 जुलाई, 2019 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 1807 के दिए गए उत्तर के संशोधनार्थ एक विवरण (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendrabhai Modi, hon. Leader of the House, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, hon. Leader of the Opposition, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad, leaders of various political parties and hon. Members, as the 249th Session of Rajya Sabha concludes today, as the Chairman of this august House, I owe to you all and the people of the country a brief account of the performance of the House over the last 35 sittings.

All of you may recall that on the last day of the previous Session which was the last before the General Elections held this year, I submitted a report to the people on the 13th February this year on the functioning of this House over the last five years from 2014 to 2019. While doing so, I shared my anguish over 40 per cent of the precious time of the House lost on account of disruptions. I also

referred to significantly lesser number of Bills, 53, passed by this House than that of the other House during those five years. However, I then noted that the optimist in me awaits better days as we move on. I am glad that my optimism has come true during this Session. With great pleasure, I have a turnaround story to report to you all and, through you, to the people of the country who have been patiently waiting for such a run and turnaround in the form of a functional House breaking from the disruptive past. I compliment all sections of the House for collectively scripting this change. While presenting the positive narrative flowing from this Session, I seek your indulgence as I reel out quite a few comparative statistics. The facts that I present form the basis of 'a new normal' that this august House has risen to during this highly productive Session.

I am happy to go on record that this Council of States has lived up to the mandate of defending the federal spirit of our polity by standing up for the rights of the States. This has come out on three occasions during this Session, and the credit for this goes to both the Opposition and Ruling parties. Firstly, while passing the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, the provision of 'consultation with the States' had been converted into 'concurrence of the States' then and there. The second, in respect of the National Medical Commission Bill, the representation of the States has been substantially increased as against the initial provisions, then and there, by the Health Minister. I have to inform you that these two amendments made by this House have been agreed to by the other House also. In the third instance, the Government agreed to cancel the postal examination conducted in Tamil Nadu when Members raised the issue during Zero Hour. All of you collectively deserve appreciation for this spirit of mutual understanding and accommodation. If you raise an issue and the Government understands it and responds to it with a positive spirit, nothing can stop us from moving ahead. That has been proved on these three occasions.

The House had 39 debates on legislative proposals and issues of public importance through Calling Attention notices, Short Duration Discussions and one Half-an-Hour Discussion. I am happy to note that most of these debates were of good quality with all the sides effectively presenting their views and perspective, which are now a matter of record for posterity. As an illustration, I find it in order to refer to a former Chief Election Commissioner of the Election Commission of India writing a detailed article in The Hindu newspaper on electoral reforms entirely based on the debate in the House on that subject.

[Mr. Chairman]

After a long time, this House witnessed narrowing of divergence in terms of Bills passed by both the Houses of Parliament during this Session. At the start of this Session, I had invited the attention of all of you to the need for Parliament to function with a spirit of synergy between both the Houses. I am glad this has happened so quickly during this Session. During this Session, this House has passed 32 Bills as against 36 Bills by the other House. With this august House turning more productive and purposeful, the negative coverage in the media has almost vanished, for the time being, of course. I am glad to notice, and so are you, with the detailed report by the media about the Bills introduced and passed around this time. I compliment all forms of media for their constructive support by providing a proper report.

Hon. Members, I would now like to present facts about the turnaround and the new normal that has been realized during this Session. In terms of legislative output, with the passage of 32 Bills during these 35 sittings, this Session is the best in the last 17 years, accounting for 52 Sessions. Thirty-five Bills were passed during the 197th Session in 2002. The best performance in this regard in the last 41 years, since 1978, for which Session-wise data is available, was 37 Bills passed during the 131st Session in 1984. This Session is also the fifth best in the last 41 years.

The turnaround during this Session also came out clearly when viewed against the passage of a total of only 33 Bills during the last five Sessions, (244th to 248th) put together. In terms of utilization of the available time of the House, that is, the productivity of the House, with 104.92 per cent productivity, this Session is the best in the last five years since 2014 and coming after 17 Sessions. During the last five Sessions, the productivity of the House ranged from a low of 7.44 per cent to a maximum of 65.60 per cent and the change is gratifying with the House reporting 100 per cent or more productivity for the first time in the last five years.

During this Session, no Business was allowed to be transacted for a full two-and-a-half days besides occasional disruptions. A total of 19 hours and 12 minutes of precious time of the House was lost on this count. However, the House sat beyond the scheduled time on 19 days and gained around 28 hours.

Going by the total time spent on transacting business of different kind, with the total time availed of around 195 hours, this Session is the best of the 36 Sessions

spread over the last 11 years since the 213th Session in 2008 the period from when such information is maintained.

It is pertinent to note that during the last five Sessions, the total functional time of this House has been only 173 hours and 33 minutes spread over a total of 88 sittings.

With 35 sittings, this Session is the longest in the last 14 years. The previous record being 38 sittings during the 204th Session in 2005.

In the context of different opinions expressed over the length of this Session, it is relevant to know that since the inception of Rajya Sabha in 1952 and till 2013, this House had 30 or above sittings per Session 27 times. Of these, 9 Sessions had 35 or more sittings each. The longest session since 1952 was the 9th Session in 1955 with as many as 50 sittings.

With a total of 151 Starred Questions taken for oral answers, this Session is the best in the last 14 years coming after 45 Sessions. The earlier record being 165 questions answered during the 204th Session in 2005.

During the last five Sessions, a total of only 175 Starred Questions could be answered during 88 sittings highlighting the change in this Session.

In terms of percentage of Starred Questions orally answered, this Session clocking 40.27 per cent is the best in the last 16 years and after 51 Sessions. The 198th Session in 2003 has logged 43.63 per cent.

With 5.50 Starred Questions answered on an average, this Session has set up a record in the last 15 years spanning 46 Sessions. During the 203rd Session in 2003, on an average 6.58 Starred Questions were answered.

With regard to Zero Hour submissions, this Session has recorded the best of all performance. With 326 Zero Hour submissions, this Session is the best in the last 20 years spanning 63 Sessions since the 186th Session in 1999. Before that no such Session-wise data is maintained here in the House. A total of only 241 Zero Hour submissions could be made during the last five Sessions. As compared to that, this Session marks very high.

A total of 195 Special Mentions were made during this Session marking it the best in 12 Sessions of the last four years. One hundred and thirty two such submissions were made during the 237th Session in 2015. A total of only 145 Special Mentions were made during the last five Sessions.

[Mr. Chairman]

This, in effect, means that with this Session being more functional and productive with substantially reduced disruptions, a total of 520 issues of public importance could be raised and brought to the notice of the Government.

At this juncture, I would also like to make another important point. Zero Hour and Special Mentions give a very good opportunity to all sections of the House to raise matters of urgent public importance concerning their area, State, region and the country even. Of the total Zero Hour submissions and Special Mentions made in this Session, the ruling alliance accounts for 36 per cent of them only. This drives home the point that disruptions deprive other parties most of the opportunity of raising such issues.

The Zero Hour submissions and Special Mentions made during this Session covered a wide range of important issues, including rising drug abuse and trafficking, illegal organ trade, human trafficking, forced religious conversions in Pakistan, growing population and also growing pollution and their consequences, rising road accidents and also its casualties, need for interlinking of rivers in the context of floods and drought, fake news on social media, crisis in the real estate sector Faulty hip implants, obscenity in print and electronic media, Minimum Support Prices for farmers, checking migration from rural areas, reservation for women in legislatures, justice for the States under the 15th Finance Commission, protection of wetlands, promoting organic farming, enforcement of cyber laws, game safety guidelines for safety of children and even shortage of hearse vans in hospitals etc. Disruptions like in the past would not have made this possible. I want everyone of you to please understand this. So, let us not return to disruptions. Let us stay with the new normal of this session.

Hon. Members, the people of our country have witnessed during this Session what a functional Parliament means and they are acknowledging it and so is the media which plays an important role in amplifying the message flowing out of a functional Parliament. Having reached a new normal in this Session, the task now before all of us is to sustain it without getting back to old ways. The Bills passed during this session have been very significant in terms of their impact on the social and economic landscape of our country. Passing of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, widely known as the *triple talak* bill is the most far-reaching social reform legislation in the last over 60 years since the passage of Hindu Code Bills. Though there were some differing perspectives, — Members have got a

right to express their views on some provisions of this Bill, -- the broad spirit of the unity with which this House cleared this Bill is praiseworthy and I compliment all sections of the House for the same. The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill is another historic legislation. Both these legislations seek to address legacy issues. The national security eco-system has also been further strengthened with the passage of related Bills during this session. At the end of it, all of you have reasons to go back with smiles on your faces having scripted the much needed turn-around in the functioning of this august House. I whole heartedly compliment all of you for the same. And, also, I owe special thanks to the Deputy Chairman, Shri Harivansh, -- though new to this responsibility, he has conducted the House in the most remarkable manner -- all the Members on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen, Secretary General and his team of hardworking and committed officials and staff, and the Watch and Ward personnel for their untiring efforts during this long session.

Another important highlight of this Session is, many Members spoke in their mother tongue. That is a happy news for the country, happy news for me also personally. Even if sometimes you don't understand the language, we feel at home because people are speaking in our language. If we practice this in the coming days, with the improvement of the translation system further, we will be able to create a new record, a new norm and the best practice so that the others also can follow the same. I also thank the media for the sustained interest all through this Session and enhanced coverage of the proceedings of the House. But, I want to tell the media, our Members sat for longer periods than your members in the gallery. I have been noticing it. The media also should take note of it. You want to cover only, what you call, the early hours. I want to just tell the media, because you are the means of communication to the people, do justice to your responsibility by highlighting our responsibility or irresponsibility if that is there. I am not dictating anything to you. But, you have a duty to see to it that when the House sits up to 9.00 P.M., 10.00 P.M. or 10.30 P.M., your people should also sit, like by having rotation. So, that is my advice to the media. After all, they are also independent in this country and they have got the right to do whatever they want. At the same time, they have a responsibility because we are inviting you to the Session and you have the access to what is happening here. So, you also have a responsibility to do this.

Before I conclude, I want to say one thing. I don't want to take the names; others may think otherwise. Some of the new Members, who have come to this House, I am so impressed by their conduct, by their contributions and the study they are making, and particularly, we are actually showing that we are the Council

[Mr. Chairman]

of States. Certain Members are making study about their State and then highlighting the need for Central attention, to their State- related issues, while speaking on the other issues also. A very good beginning has been made, and I hope that in the coming days, they will continue the same. I have also seen that the cooperation between the Ruling Party and the Opposition is also improving comparatively. It should improve further. There has to be a dialogue outside the House on more and more occasions, so that such situation can be avoided.

I owe an explanation as to why in the morning I became a little unhappy when somebody said it. I was told that, I do not want to say anything about it, but, Anand ji was also there, that there is broad agreement, that is why, and that too, Jallianwala Bagh is a historic occasion, there is no party politics in this, I had permitted the Minister. Had I known that there is some problem, either I would have gone for the regular route of discuss, debate and dispose or I would have asked them to postpone it. But, if more and more interactions are there, it will be more easy for smooth functioning of the House, and if anybody violates it, of course, the rules are there, and the Chair will take its own way. This is the report I wanted to place before the nation and the people. Now, let the National Song “Vande Mataram” to be played.

NATIONAL SONG

(The National Song, “*Vande Mataram*”, was then played)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down: कृपया एक मिनट के लिए बैठ जाईए। ...*(व्यवधान)*... I have an announcement to make. After discussing with the leaders, in fact, we wanted to adjourn the House after obituary reference to Shrimati Sushma Swaraj ji, who has been our colleague. But, as today is the last day of the Session, we had some formalities to be completed. Then, I have included some Business, and we have completed that Business also.

As a mark of respect to the departed soul, and also today, I wanted to adjourn the House and then meet again, but, now we have paid our homage, and also we have completed our Business, so, the House stands adjourned *sine die*.

*The House then adjourned sine die at fifty three minutes
past eleven of the clock.*
