

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, March 19, 2012/Phalguna 29, 1933 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

I. Declining Sex Ratio

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: In our country sex ratio is continuously declining. It is a very serious matter of concern. The steps taken in this direction so far, are not sufficient and put a question mark on the measures done by us or Government. Girl child ratio is declining rapidly in our country. Many laws have been framed for women and girl child but biased attitude is still there. Many concrete steps have been taken to check this but female foeticide and dowry deaths have become a common feature. Records of 27 States show that child sex ratio is declining continuously. NGOs are also working in this direction but no major change has been seen. According to assessment of 2011 one thousand boys are born against 914 girls. It will be very harmful for us.

SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: According to global development report of 2012 our country is on second number after China in the matter of declining number of girl child against average birth rate in the entire world. In India female foeticide is going on rampantly and all the efforts to check pre-natal sex determination have failed. Madhya Pradesh Government has initiated a 'Save Girl Child'

***This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.**

campaign under which they have tried to unite all the sections of the society. Government should take necessary action to check the crimes being committed against the women in the country.

II. Taking Away of Two Children out of the Custody of Their NRI Parents in Norway

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Recently in Norway two children have been taken away from their parents as mother has tried to feed one child with her hand and father slept with the other child in the night. It is the culture of our country. Foreigners did not know about Indian culture and sacraments. It is an attack on Indian culture. Unfortunately Indian Government did not react rightly in this regard. There is a great resentment among the people. Foreign Governments have ridiculed the Indian culture and Indian sacraments many times. If something happens wrong with anybody abroad, whole India should stand with him, so that the Indians living abroad can further spread Indian culture and their sacraments.

(Shri Shreegopal Vyas, Shri Kalraj Mishra, Shri Tarun Vijay Shri Prakash Javadekar and Shri Nand Kumar Sai associated)

III. Decision to audit Less Number of Public Sector Bank Branches from Current Year

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Large scale banking is being operated by public sector banks and all of us are very concerned about the rising Non-Performing Assets of public sector banks. Despite such huge increase in NPAs, the RBI, through one study group, has now proposed to remove a very large part of the banking system from the purview of branch auditing. All branches, which have advances less than Rs. 20 crores, will no more be considered for the Branch Audit System. This will increase the possibility of frauds. Nobody will be going to check the accounts of the branches and it will have serious impact on the accuracy of public sector bank accounts. It may also have a serious ramification on the entire international view of the Indian banking system. A large amount of deposits and interest income will remain unaudited and the Branch Manager will arbitrarily do anything. The logic given is that this will save audit fee. There will

be almost Rs. 5 lakh crores of advances which will get out of auditing.

I suggest that this order should be kept in abeyance until views from all experts are taken.

(Shri Naresh Gujral, Shri Prakash Javadekar, Shri Kalraj Mishra, Shri Avinash Rai Khanna and Shri Tarun Vijay associated)

IV. Less Registration of Muslims and Dalit Children in Nursery Classess

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: List of 92 schools have been given in the news paper and not a single muslim child has got admission in 20 schools and they are all renowned Public schools. They are getting every facility from Government of India, Delhi Government and respective Government in the name of public school but admission is not given to poor children and children of scheduled caste, minorities and other backward classes.

(Shri Tariq Anwar, Shri Mohammed Adeeb, and Shri Husain Dalwai associated)

V. Hundredth century by Sachin Tendulkar

SHRI TARUN VIJAY: On behalf of people of India and the House I congratulate Sachin Tendulkar who is pride of India and Bharat Mata. He has increased the pride of tricolour in the world of sports. He has given dreams to the new generation and has given courage to fulfill those dreams. He is not just the greatest; he represents the hope of India for a greater, better and golden future.

(Shrimati Maya Singh, Shri Tariq Anwar, Shri Shantaram Naik, Shri Balbir Punj and Shri S.S.Ahluwalia associated.)

VI. International political situation arising out of alleged Nuclear Programme of Iran

SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: The powerful countries of the world pressurising us not to import crude oil from Iran. It will create a great danger in the path of development of the country. I request the government to prepare any concrete and long

term strategy. Government should speed up the production of domestic oil. We should have strategic reserve of sources of oil and natural gas in our country.

VII. Reduction in the interest rate on Employees Provident Fund

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: It has been done at a time when the rate of interest is increasing. This unilateral decision to cut the rate of interest in EPF is a disrespect to the basic democratic principle. I denounce this decision and demand from the Government to immediately revoke the notification reducing the interest rate of the Employees Provident Fund.

(*Shri Prasanta Chatterjee, Dr. Chandan Mitra, Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, Shri Prakash Javadekar, Shri M. Rama Jois, Shri M.P. Achuthan, Shri K.N. Balagopal, Shri Tarun Vijay, Shri Shanta Kumar and Shri Nand Kumar Sai associated.*)

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS -

Contd.

SHRI Y.S.CHOWDARY: The entire country is yet to come out of the shocks inflicted by the scams relating to Commonwealth Games, 2G spectrum, Antrix-Devas deal, etc. The Government does not consider them to be worthy issues to be taken up or the Government is totally immune of all the scams. Government owes an answer to the nation on this subject. The process of registration and delivery of ADHAAR numbers is completely faulty. There is a huge gap between the price at which produce is purchased from the farmer and sold to the end consumer. The Government cannot be a silent spectator. Separate Budget for agriculture is the need of the hour. Need of the hour is to strengthen renewable energy. Measures should be initiated to limit activity of mining for captive consumption with the sole objective of strengthening of our economy and our future generation.

Government has failed to respect the importance of our federal structure. I would like to say that the Government lacks vision

and clarity and hence cannot deliver well for betterment of the society. I strongly oppose the Motion of Thanks.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: I have seen nine features of this government in these nine years. Ego of power, failure in running the alliance, attack on the rights of the states, politics of division of the society, looting of India. The increasing NPAs is matter of great concern. Preparation is not so good which is required to face Pakistan and China. Situation of education and malnutrition is serious.

In brief I would like to expose only two scams. First scam-coal scam. In coal scam people have taken rupees 100 on each and every ton. I am naming only three companies. There is Lohara Coal Block, Navbharat power and Mince Finvest. I demand that the owner of the Mince Finvest should be named. This scam should be completely investigated. Second scam Antrix and Devas scam. I have three questions - If it was not wrong then why it was cancelled. Why does the PMO has no knowledge of it and why was the scientists punished for the mistake done by PMO? The whole scientific community is angry with the Government. Today I want to tell that there is minus 50 scam which is latest. I would like to ask as to where is Telangana? I would only say that this government neither has any direction nor any dictate.

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Today the country is facing the situation of acute poverty and starvation. Major portion of our population is living without getting proper food due to high rise in prices. There is no arrangement of employment for them. There are 75 crore people in the country who are living with a meagre earning of Rs. 20/- per day. Hon'ble President has not considered this subject in her Address. Dalits in the country are not safe today. They are being killed and their houses are being set on fire. Hon'ble President has not mentioned in her Address about the safety and Protection of these people. There is a arrangement for backlog of jobs in different departments of Central Government. Government has not intended to complete this backlog.

Reservation in Government jobs for OBCs was given by implementing Mandal Commission Report. Still some States in the country are not properly implementing 27 per cent reservation for OBCs. I have raised this matter in the House through my special mention and stated in the proceedings of Rajya Sabha that seven States in the country have not even prepared the list of OBCs so far. Hon'ble President has not mentioned in her Address about any scheme in this regard. There is no mention in the President's Address about 27 per cent reservation for OBCs in the forthcoming elections of MCD in Delhi.

SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Government has failed to contain the rise in prices in the country. Government has also failed to identify the people living below poverty line. People in the country are dying due to starvation, unemployment and malnutrition. Hon'ble President has not mentioned any concrete step to solve this problem. Workers of organised and unorganised sectors are living in a pitiable condition. Government has failed to provide them equal wages, social security and health facilities. Government has not made any effort to enact strict labour laws to protect the interests of workers. Hon'ble President has not mentioned a single word about the labourers in her Address.

Government is not taking any step to enact a new Plantation Labour Act for workers of tea plantation to provide them basic facilities of proper wages, health and social security. Government is also not eager to constitute a "National Wages Commission" for labourers. There is no mention in the President's Address about any positive plan for proper development of North East States and rural and hilly areas in the country.

SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: I would like to congratulate the Government on having introduced some crucial Bills. This would really help India's growth and productivity. Despite the challenging global economic situation, I do believe the Government has the ability to curb inflation. I compliment the Government on its initiative to start several schemes. Here I would like to mention some of the things which have not been mentioned in the President's

Address or which are being overlooked. In Tamil Nadu, the life in Puducherry and in the districts of Cuddalore and Villupuram, was totally traumatized by the cyclone Thane and the North East monsoon. This cyclone has not only devastated these places, but also has taken away 49 lives. It will take more than a decade for people belonging to these districts of Tamil Nadu to resume normal lives. There is acute shortage of power in Tamil Nadu. Fishing, knitting, textiles, agriculture, small and medium-scale industries, school-going children, all are affected for want of power. All possible efforts should be made to meet the shortage of power in Tamil Nadu.

I would like to thank the Tamil Nadu Government for accepting the advice of our leader on the Kudankulam project. I insist that the fishermen are not only from Tamil Nadu but from the whole of India. We are sorry to find that there is no mention of the Sri Lankan issue in the President's Address. The Thane issue is also not addressed. The power crisis in Tamil Nadu has not been taken care of whether it is the Kudankulam issue or the Mullaperiyar Dam issue.

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: I am deeply disappointed with the hon. President's Address as it does not reflect the hard reality of the socio-economic life of the country, and does not contain any answer to the present challenge our country is facing. There is growth but this growth widens the gap between the rich and poor. Since the Liberalisation Policy, the Government is creating islands of prosperity for a few and deprivation for millions. In the name of social welfare schemes, the Government is providing the poor doles in the form of rice and wheat at Rs. 3 per kilogram. The Government should provide them employment. With the economic liberalisation policy, corruption is growing and now pervaded to all sphere of lives. The common man is the worst victim of corruption in lower levels. It has made our democracy a mockery. The hon. President in her Address has mentioned about the Government's attempt to remove the inhuman scavenger system. After 64 years of Independence this inhuman system is still rampant in our country. Dalits are segregated and are not allowed to enter the temples and are not allowed to take part in social functions. Political parties do not raise their voice

against this Indian form of apartheid. They fear that the Hindu caste votes will be affected if they speak against untouchability. So those who talk of democracy, should look into it. There is a discrimination against Non-UPA Governments by the present UPA Government in regard to the allocation of coal and energy. Even the grants for floods, drought and special packages for many backward states are not being considered by the Central Government. I would submit that if the President's Address mentions these things, the people of India will be satisfied.

SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: I support this President's Address delivered by her Excellency. But I also draw the attention of the Government towards some important issues. Today the situation of North East is the worst. The reasons which have created upheavals are still alive. Neither the movement have come to the end nor any issue has sorted out even today. I submit that the Government should take the issue very seriously and try to sort it out as the earliest. I am sure that MPs from North Eastern states can give suggestions to the Government on this issue. But the Prime Minister has not yet consulted even a single MP from North Eastern states. Our Government has failed on this front. Government must take in confidence the Government of Manipur, political parties and civilians in general to sort out this issue. Only law making is not enough rather this should be taken care of that whether law is being implemented or not. Secondly, North Eastern states are developing good relations with its neighbours. We must take care of these issues also. I support this President's Address.

DR. CHANDAN MITRA: There is one central theme in Her Excellency's Speech. It is the systematic attack on the federal system that marks this Speech throughout . I don't want to go into the details. But, the NCTC is a matter which has been agitating all the states. The NCTC should be brought without the draconian powers that have been given to the I.B. There is no assurance in the President's Address to this effect. There is a lot of talk about curbing terrorism in the President's Address. But the Government has itself abolished POTA. POTA was very effective in curbing terrorism. There is a need for a crime control organization. The RPF amendment is going to be

another big issue. Even on the Food Security Act the Government is trying to put a system which is worse than what operates in certain state of the country. There is a universal food security scheme already in operation. The new Food Security Act, will allow only 66 per cent of the population to avail of this benefits. I would like to know whether the Government is going to curb the universal system of subsidized foodgrain distribution in various states. The President's Address does not explain this at all. The President's Address says that crores has been spent on cleaning of the Ganga in the last three years. Will the Government please tell us how much they clean the Ganga because some scientific reports had declared the Ganga a dead river and so polluted that one can get skin allergies if takes a dip into it. The President's Address talks about the Project Tiger. I must bring to the attention of the Government that the activities have happened only on papers. We talk about environments and set up so many projects, but is there is a system of measuring that what is the achievement. Last year alone, 839 leopards were killed.

So, why is there no scheme for their protection? What I found very abusing was the sanction of Rs. 20,000 crores for the National Optical Fibre Network to connect all panchayats by broadband. It is a very laudable scheme. Computerisation is a very good idea. It is essential for e-governance and for curbing corruption. So, unless the Government assure that at least electricity will be provided to every part of the country, what is the point of all this broadband connectivity throughout the country. We all know that situation of Air India is worse. But when the Government says we are going to protect air passengers, protection is not only physical safety; but also from this kind of cut-throat pricing. I would like to know from the Government when these two projects of North-South and the East-West Highways will be completed. In conclusion, I would like to point out the media report which said recently that out of 32 pledges given in the Presidential Address over the last three years, 21 projects have not even been started.

SHRI AHMAD SAEED MALIHABADI: As far as minorities are concerned I think there is no hope in it. There is no

development of minorities. Their situation is as bad as earlier. The situation of minorities in the period of 60-62 years has deteriorated a lot. Rangnath Mishra Commission had proposed 10 percent reservation for the Muslims but during the recent election only 4.5 percent reservation was mentioned. In the beginning it was told that it is only for the Muslims but later on it was found that it is for five minorities. Whatever we are being given is only nominal.

SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: We had expected from the Centre that our long-standing problems of floods, soil erosion, identity, illegal infiltration would be resolved but till date, no solution has been found. Failure to properly implement the MNERGA scheme has caused disappointment among the poor people. Talking of illegal infiltration in the North-East, the indigenous people of Assam harbour a cloud of doubt. There is question mark on the sincerity of Central and State Governments in curbing the illegal infiltration in the North Eastern States. One of the provisions of the RTE Act is to maintain the Teachers-Pupil Ratio. That is also not being implemented properly in the State. Here the law and order situation is so sensitive that no private investor, will take the risk for investment. There is a need of high level enquiry about the utilization of the funds released for the welfare of tribals, minorities, Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes under the various flagship schemes. For the development of tourism, the Government should take necessary steps. There is lack of connectivity to many tourist spots. Even the National Heritage site does not have a proper link road.

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI, making his maiden speech, said: Setu Samudram project was started during the time of Atalji and this setu is identity of our nation. How will you ensure the employment? Where are the employment opportunity with you? India is primarily a country of villages but your government is trying to destroy the whole system. How will you ensure employment? I am surprised that, whenever your government comes, production of agriculture decreases and price rise increases. You have introduced Special Economic Zone but in my opinion you should have introduced Special Agriculture Zone.

The cow is the most valuable gift to us, but her milk is being adulterated with urea. Slaughter houses are being made. As far as education is concerned, it has been divided into two kinds. On the one hand there are convents and public schools while on the other hand, there are village schools where there is acute shortage of teachers. That is why terrorism and Naxalism are growing. The Government should hold talks with the leaders of the Naxalite areas. Besides this, we are afraid of China which has malicious intention in respect of Arunachal Pradesh. We should be courageous enough to challenge China. Besides, the Government has failed to provide employment to people. I invoke the countrymen to work hard so that India can be made great.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. The Home Minister has said that the Government is prepared to talk to the Maoists provided they abjure violence. The President's Address is realistic and we should support the Motion of Thanks. The most important thing is that the growth rate has been achieved while the whole world was going through a big economic recession. When we blame the present Government, we should compare its performance with the previous Government's performance. The President exudes confidence that in the next year, the growth will be eight to nine per cent. The Finance Minister can definitely achieve this expected growth rate. I admit that the benefit of growth is available more to the rich than the poor. But for that, condemning the growth is not the solution. In the year 1989-90, there was no money for welfare measures and so the growth became zero. That was a very dangerous situation for the country. Thereafter, the then Finance Minister, who is the present Prime Minister, took the bold step of liberalisation and reforms. Because of that, growth has now become possible. The loan waiver scheme has benefited a lot of poor and marginal farmers. In MNREGA, a huge amount is spent for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the down-trodden.

Growth is a must and because of this growth, we are able to spend on welfare schemes. The amount we spend on social sector, is available because of the growth rate. The benefit of growth should be

more pumped into the *aam aadmi*. That is why the allocation for NREGA has been increased. The allocations for education, National Rural Health Mission and primary education have been increased. This year, much more new programmes have been included in the Budget. Therefore, more funds are needed. The growth should increase. That is what the Government is doing. The Government is consciously devising programmes and spending on the social sector development.

The Government cannot tolerate corruption. The Government has taken steps to reduce corruption. The allegations of corruption against the Government have to be verified and inquired into. This Government has allowed the law to take its own course. But we cannot take all the allegations as gospel truths. Now, I am coming to the C & AG report itself. He called some laws presumptive laws. That means that he formulated a policy without considering the fact that if that policy was implemented, the telephone charges would go very high. He has also thought of a presumptive loss. But, actually there is no question of presumption in auditing. I am not casting any aspersion on the C&AG. The Government did not accept the presumptive loss. There was no such thing. That is why petrol price is decontrolled by the Government and diesel price is not decontrolled.

But I am saying, assumptions and presumptions fall under a politician's realm, not the realm of bureaucracy, or for that matter, even the CAG. There is certainly a rise in prices and inflation. My point is that price-rise and inflation are inevitable in a developing economy. We must look into the purchasing power of the people. The purchasing power of people even at the lowest rung has increased. The teledensity today is 70 per cent. 70 per cent teledensity means even the poorer sections of our society, are holding mobile phones. A telephone connection has become affordable to the common man. That is certainly because of the policies of this Government.

The indicators of human development in southern States like Tamil Nadu and Kerala are much better. The States where the human development indicators are better are those States which have worked in population stabilization. My request is that all States which are lagging behind need not do much. They should concentrate on

population stabilisation. Kerala did well because of education. Then, the other aspect is health on which Kerala concentrated. The point is, give a thrust to family planning.

The States should be responsible and should discharge their responsibilities which have been bestowed on them. Because of Federalism, the Centre has limitations. If that is broken, there will be a hue and cry, and that is what you see in NCTC. But terrorism is a national challenge. A State or for that matter two-three States together cannot fight terrorism. Terrorism has to be fought nationally. But that does not mean, the Centre should encroach upon the powers of the States. Here one should not forget the fact that this is a quasi federal structure and, therefore, Centre has certain powers.

The Finance Minister has said that he will come out with a White Paper on Black Money. Regarding the Lokpal Bill, at least, give us the credit for keeping the Bill alive. Today, it is not a bipolar world, it is a unipolar world. We are not towing the US line with regard to Iran. The US wants sanctions against Iran. We are not with that. My whole point is that the allegation that this Government is pro-West or pro-US is absolutely wrong. Rather this Government takes decision on the basis of our interest, which may sometimes converge with the US stand and which may sometimes diverge with US stand. Besides, the dual leadership is working harmoniously. There is no doubt about that.

DR. BARUN MUKHERJI: Unemployment is a burning issue facing the youth and other adults of the country. The Government has no concrete employment generation plan to offer in the near future, except the MGNREGA and tourism development. But, MGNREGA could so far provide only 54 person days on an average which is far below the target of 100 days employment per household. Moreover, adequate socio-economic benefit like raising land productivity and others could not be derived even after spending nearly Rs. 1,48,000 crores so far under the Scheme.

Urban employment problem continues to be critical. It is admitted that industrial and manufacturing sectors cannot deliver much jobs, at least, before a decade. Hence, employment continues to be a critical issue. Urgent necessity of supplying essential

commodities at subsidized rates to the poor has not yet been fulfilled. Much publicized Food Security Scheme is also yet to be implemented. Growing cases of farmers' suicides, mainly due to indebtedness and failure to receive remunerative prices for their produce, growing prices of fertilizers, with gradual withdrawal of subsidy, the plight of the larger number of workers of unorganized sector have also no place in the President's Address.

President's Address includes a reference to the necessity of the National Counter Terrorism Centre, which is still debated. It is high time to revisit the entire Centre-State relations to strengthen the federalism. Both the Railways and the public sector airlines are the victims of gross mismanagement. Immediate corrective measures are needed to be taken in both these vital sectors. The advancement of information technology and e-governance does not always speak of improvement of living standards of the *aam aadmi*. A lot of things need to be done in the interests and for the benefits of the toiling masses.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH:

The President has not mentioned in his address as to who are involved in corruption and by when Government would take any action against them. It has not been mentioned in the address whether Government is taking any decisive steps to create infrastructure to provide uniform developmental opportunities to all the citizens of the country. The foundation of development can be laid by imparting uniform education to the new generation of the whole country. The employment policy is darkening the future of employees. The resources of employment should be properly divided in country. The President has mentioned about the decision to provide four and half percent quota for the backward minorities out of the 27 percent quota reserved for the backward. This decision has been rejected by the minorities themselves.

No mention has been made about the electoral reforms in the Presidential Address. We will have to give special attention to the electoral reforms in order to remove the corruption. The Government had talked about giving reservation to the women in Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils. By when this

Bill would be enacted into law, it has not been mentioned in the Presidential Address. The Government has not mentioned about the policy of resettling the Hindus displaced from Kashmir. By when they will be given justice. It has been said that the farmers will get loans at very low interest rates but when the loans are not being given at all, the question of reducing the interest rate does not arise. The citizens and farmers of North -East receive 90 percent subsidy on solar energy. The culture of Jharkhand is similar to that of North - East. The system of providing 90 percent subsidy for irrigation pump to the farmers there should be ensured, so that the farmers could enhance production.

What happened to the Lokpal Bill? Nothing has been mentioned about it in the Presidential Address. The Prime Minister had announced that uniform medical facilities would be provided to all. The estimate made by a hospital for the treatment of a person should be fully borne by the Government, otherwise the recommendation of the MP should be cancelled. The number of Bangladeshi infiltrators has increased in the eastern India. The Government should give consideration to the fact as to how this infiltration should be stopped. China has constructed dam on Brahmaputra River as a result of which it is getting dried. The Government should have paid attention to that also. If we have to carry out development, we will have to work with strong belief and determination.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: I rise to speak on this Motion of Thanks with a deep sense of regret and disappointment. In spite of a long speech, many issues that need to be properly addressed have not been addressed. People of our country today are suffering from immense economic burdens being imposed by this continuous rise in the prices for more than four years now. There is no mention of how this will be controlled. The second important issue, is the fact that there are continuing distress suicides by our farmers. But there is no reference to this very very unfortunate and inhuman practice of distress suicides continuing in our country. The Prime Minister's New Year's Address contains five objectives or challenges, the country needs to meet. What the hon. President says is the exact repetition of

all these five concerns and this cannot be taken lightly. These challenges are livelihood security, economic security, energy security, environmental security and national security. If there cannot be any protection of personal liberty and life for the Indian people, what is the point in talking of all these other securities. It is horrendous to see the decline and degeneration of law and order in all parts of the country. The very fundamental right to life and the fundamental right to liberty are being continuously threatened today all over this country and this is something that the President's Address does not find even a reference. The security, that is fundamental to the existence of people in our country, is left out of these challenges, of these five securities.

Article 21, which gives the right to life and personal liberty, is under siege by these sorts of politics, which have to be checked. The crux of the Constitution is that the ultimate sovereignty in this country remains in the hands of the people. I am urging upon the Government to make amends on this particular issue in order to ensure the implementation of article 21 in the right spirit.

India is an Union of States. That is the federal content of our Constitution. This NCTC today takes away the right of policing from the States. I have moved an amendment in this regard. The fundamental right of the States in terms of law and order is being seriously encroached upon one by one. We cannot allow this. So, I think, this is something which needs an urgent correction. There is no dispute on the issue of national security.

The economic security has been virtually and unfortunately reduced to a question of containing our economy in terms of containing the fiscal deficit in our country. In the Budget fiscal deficit has gone up to 5.9 per cent. It is five lakh twenty two thousand crore rupees according to the Budget papers. As per 'Statement of Tax Foregone' that in the same year that It has not collected taxes worth five lakh twenty eight thousand crore rupees. If those taxes had been collected, there would have been no fiscal deficit in our country. Now, in the name of reducing that fiscal deficit subsidies are being targeted. Thirty thousand crore rupees would be raised through selling your public sector. Now you are doing all this in order to meet the gap of your fiscal deficit. What is this economic security concept?

Concessions to the rich in terms of tax concessions are supposed to be incentives for growth and concessions given to the poor in terms of subsidies are supposed to be burdens on the economy? It means that poor are a burden and the rich are an incentive. Three per cent fiscal deficit termed as healthy fiscal deficit universally. With the same amount of money of your GDP last year, You could have been created infrastructure of worth of about two lakh fifty thousand crores of rupees. If you had used that money for building the infrastructure lakhs of jobs would have been created and that job creation would have given salaries to the people whose salaries would have created the demand in the economy for a healthy economic growth. Instead of that, you are opting for a path where you want to give more and more incentives to the corporates and the rich.

Whatever amount of cheaper capital you may make available to the corporates, and however much they will increase their investments, that will not result in growth unless people of my country have money in their hands to buy. One-third of my country's GDP is in the hands of these 55 billionaires people. 80 crores or more of our population survives on less than twenty rupees a day. So, the economic security mentioned in the President address is only for few people not for the country. This is a very, very serious lapse. I think that is where the serious correction in the direction of the policies of the Government will have to be undertaken.

We all heard the references being made to the great teledensity in our country. And we say that this is the index of prosperity in our country. But what are the other realities? 37.1 per cent of our people and nearly 40 per cent in rural areas live in some sort of thatched households. Nearly 50 per cent of the population of our country have no drainage. Even today, we talk of LPG but nearly 50 per cent of the people in our country still use firewood for their cooking. Is this the economic security we are talking of? And it is not that we cannot change this situation. But we have treat youth as an asset, not as a liability. You and I have to do nothing else. We would only have to make the policies which will give them better health, better education, so that they can work for India's improvement. They

will build a better India. And I want this particular issue to be revisited very seriously.

Now, I come to the energy security. We talk of 100 per cent electrification. The Census of India tells you that nearly one-third of India does not have electricity connections in their homes and we are talking of energy security. Unless you produce this energy, you cannot give the security. Ecological security and energy security have been linked up saying that we must de-regulate our petroleum prices because of the global oil situation. But, today, you talk of these great under-recoveries by our oil firms because of which we say that we have to raise the prices of petroleum products. We import crude oil which we process in our country to produce petrol, diesel and kerosene. Therefore, We should calculate on the basis of cost of production. The people are burdened with more and more petroleum prices. You please rationalise this policy otherwise energy security is impossible. And that is why, it is connected with ecological security. In the climate conference, India has made unilateral commitments to reduce carbon emissions without getting a reciprocal arrangement from the western countries. If you do that, where will we have that energy to eradicate poverty in our country? We cannot eradicate poverty in our country and lead India towards prosperity. So, these policies have to be re-looked.

The whole of Europe is worried today that our universities are producing more skilled manpower. Nobody can stop India from becoming the leader of knowledge society in the world today. But we are unfortunately wasting that potential by this policy trajectory that we are following today. This policy trajectory is neither giving us economics nor livelihood, nor energy, nor ecological security that we are talking of. Therefore, I think, in all these matters, all policies that the hon. President has outlined, I would only like to say that gap between the shining India and suffering India is widening. We have resources, talent, youth and demographic advantage but we are wasting all this instead of creating a better India.

The last point I want to touch upon is about India's foreign policy. There is a point that we should work out a foreign policy in our national interest. We have taken some steps. Are they in our national

interest? We are talk about the energy security and the rising global oil prices. We have had option of Iran gas pipeline but because of the U.S. pressure we have not followed it up. It was told that We will not stop buying oil from Iran. I applauded. But reality is that from 21.8 million tonnes in 2008-09 it is came down to 13.1 million tones in the current fiscal year. You are reducing the import of oil from Iran because somebody is telling you that. We are actually reducing the oil imports. All this is happening under pressure. That is the tilt in the foreign policy. The use of veto on Syria is another example. After abstaining from voting, within three months, what was the change that had happened? Our stand is not clear about Sri Lankan Tamils. That is my serious complaint.

That is why, I think, these are matters which can't be taken lightly and because of this we are unable to utilise the potential that we have, as a country. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to have a relook at the policy trajectory and direction and also to change many of the policies in the interest of our people and give them a better quality of life.

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