

**RAJYA SABHA**

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**\*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

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**(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)**

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**Friday, March 08, 2013/Phalgun 17, 1934 (Saka)**

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**Reference on the Occasion of the International Women's Day**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Today, March 8, 2013, is International Women's Day, a day to celebrate and honour the untiring commitment and persistent efforts of women in India and throughout the world to achieve equality, justice and development. The UN theme for International Women's Day this year is "A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women".

Our Constitution has enshrined the ideals of gender equality and women's empowerment as fundamental to achieving equal rights and dignity for all. Today, though women have made remarkable progress in economic, political and social spheres, gender equality remains a distant dream and women's plight is gaining momentum throughout the country. Female foeticide, honour killing of girls, growing violence against women is a cause of concern to all of us. There is an urgent need to make self-introspection and shape public opinion and perceptions so that women can achieve their potential and live a dignified life.

On this occasion, I am sure all Members will join me in re-dedicating ourselves collectively towards making the

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

cherished goal of women empowerment a living reality and to ensure progress and sustainable development of the country.

**SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:** India guarantees to all Indian women equality before the law. Progressive minds narrated women superbly. We could not educate the present generation properly regarding the values of life. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century instead of being progressive, we are getting regressive. We have to make such a fearless atmosphere wherein women and children can live freely, then only I shall be happy to celebrate this day.

**SHRIMATI RAJNI PATIL:** In India 10 lakhs of women are elected through Panchyati Raj. Women Reservation Bill should be passed on women's day and women should be given 33 per cent reservation. The subject given in this year Budget are Nirbhaya Scheme and Women's Bank and this has been done by Congress Party.

**SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI:** Nirbhaya and Malala have shown exemplary courage and became icons of inspiration for women and girl all over the world. All women should become Mata Kali and punish all those brutal creatures who try to molest or abuse them. Cases of rape, molestation, dowry deaths and cruelty have give up in this country women are always at the receiving end. Unless and until there is a change in the mindset of male towards female, this agony will continue. I urge upon the Government to pass women' Reservation Bill in Lok Sabha and give women the real empowerment.

**SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI:** I congratulate and express my good wishes on the occasion of the women's day. In the corporate sector women's participation is only 7 per cent. While in unorganized sector women's role and contribution has reached upto 90 per cent. Women are compelled to work in the atmosphere of insecurity and price rise. First of all we have to remove economic insecurity from women. Our effort will be to

discuss about women in the House without any difference of minds.

**SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:** On International Women's Day, I congratulate all my colleagues in this House, in the other House and all over the country. I have always been convinced that women are an economic entity. I would like appeal to all our Members in the Lok Sabha that they rise above their political commitments and look at women as an entity to make the country go forward. 33 per cent women have been given reservation in the local body elections. It is that empowerment which we all have given to women at the grassroot level. This empowerment should be in the Vidhan Sabhas and the Parliament.

**DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:** Steps were taken towards equality, towards development but not towards peace. There is no peace of mind with women. Why so much harassment and quality is being done towards women? Women is not even safe in her mother's womb. We have ancient tradition of worshipping goddesses. Then why this mentality in our country. The question is of changing our mentality and this can be done with the help of everybody. 33 per cent reservation has been passed by Rajya Sabha. If Lok Sabha is also passes this Bill then women will get participation in power.

**SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:** I congratulate all the sisters of my country on this International Women's Day. International Women's Day is the symbol of our efforts and our commitment to get women's the right equal to men. Women have always carved a niche for themselves in every field with their potential and their abilities. But even today they are being harassed everywhere. The Incident like Damini has shaken the country. Laws should be implemented properly. We can make the International Women's Day meaningful only when 33 per cent Women Bill pass. Youth of the nation should also keep in mind the culture and glory of this country.

**SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN:** All of us need to first be better husbands to our wives better children to our mothers, brothers to our sisters. Lady Netas make better bosses than male netas. Bengal is passing Kanya Shree Bill today. Bengal believes in Ma Mati Manush We can get women (Ma) out of everything in Bengal.

**SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:** I wish all the women of the country with respect. The women of villages and towns have not yet got the opportunity to move forward in every aspect of life. This can be successful only when we take villages alongwith cities. International Women's Day should be passed but Dalit, backward and economically weaker women should be given separate thought.

**SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:** On behalf of the DMK Party, we are very happy to extend the bouquet of wishes to the woman community who form the axis of our society. We have always fought for the causes of women and we were the first advocates for the remarriage of widows in this society. Reservation for women in Assemblies and Parliament is necessary and there is also a very big necessity for reservation in employment opportunities for the women.

**SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:** We are observing Women's Day today to protect women's rights for the equal share in the nation building. Violence against women all over the country is increasing. Equal pay for equal work is still a night dream. All of us should take oath to stop this violence against women. We hope that the Bill relating to women's reservation will get the approval of the Parliament.

**SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN:** We are observing the International Women's Day today with a very mixed feeling. If we really have to uplift the society, we have to make sure that women are made a part of the entire process. We have to make sure that several such legislation, several such policies and programmes are made to make sure that the women are really looked after and women are made actual agents of change in this process.

**SHRI D. RAJA:** My party the Communist Party of India, joins you as also the entire House in greeting our women. The Parliament should take all steps to ensure political empowerment, economic empowerment, social empowerment and educational empowerment of women. The Women Reservation Bill must be taken up and the Parliament must pass that Bill. Our nation cannot claim to be a civilized nation as long as we deny equality and dignity to our women.

**DR. V. MAITREYAN:** India is one ancient land that has acknowledged feminine divinity. It was my leadership, who initiated the 'Cradle Baby Scheme' to prevent female infanticide. On this occasion my only wish is that we face the 2014 Lok Sabha elections with 33 percent women reservation.

**SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:** I am proud that the state I am representing here has provided 50 percent reservation to women. We should learn something from the tribal society. Relationship between man and women in the tribal society is quiet normal. What is the reason for that ideal relationship between man and woman in the tribal society. We must know it and adopt that into our action.

**SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS:** On this day I wish not a single woman faces crime as prevailed in the uncivilized. Society should be free from inequality. Let us legislate to provide equal rights to the women as men are enjoying. I wish a very happy International Women's Day to every women.

**SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:** The society cannot move forward so long as equal rights are not provided to man and women. The main reason for the advancement of Kerala is that women are educated there. It is necessary to provide high places to women to make a society equitable.

**SHRI SHASHI BHUSAN BEHERA:** On behalf of the Biju Janata Dal, on this day, in honour of women in this world and my sisters in this House, I wish a happy International Women's Day. I want to say that women are still lagging behind when compared to

men in this male dominated society. In our country we are not able to empower them. I hope that we will bring forward some more laws in favour of women for their rights, for their equality and for their dignity. I only hope that the feelings which have been expressed here really come into action.

**DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT:** There is also a responsibility of Members, particularly our lady colleagues and all our sisters to ensure that they should also stand up. I am giving reference to T.V. advertisements and T.V. programmes in which women are not only presented to sell a product but they are also often used as products. This has to be denounced and if this stops then that will be a major achievement for the womanhood.

**SHRI BALVINDER SINGH BHUNDER:** Out of our four members in Lok Sabha, two members happen to be women. We have already provided 33 percent reservation to women in our top religious forum S.G.P.C. Sex ratio which has fallen below in Punjab is being endeavoured to be rectified through 'Nanhi Chhano'. Thus we are trying as to how to rectify and adopt the slogan given by our great persons.

**SHRI G.N. RATANPURI:** Women in Jammu and Kashmir has continuously been disempowered for the last 22-25 years. The ratio of destitute women in our state is much larger in the country. We need to pay attention to it.

**SHRI SANJIV KUMAR:** International Women's Day will remain a half, if we do not remember Raja Ram Mohan Roy. Much has been said today except one that there are many states where the number of women is much less than that of man. Even today, the girls are killed before birth. There is a need to change the mindset and to strengthen the laws in this regard.

**SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),  
2012-13**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
FINANCE( SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA):** I lay on the table, a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), for the year 2012-13 (March,2013).

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**MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS –  
*Contd.***

**THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH), replying to the discussion, said:** The debate on the President's Address has been vigorous and wide-ranging. The hon'ble Leader of Opposition made a powerful speech. I agree with him that our country needs a growth rate from 8 to 9 per cent if we are to get rid of chronic poverty and large scale unemployment of our youth. This is precisely the intention of the UPA Government. Way back in early nineties we opened up our economy, adopted a path of economic reforms with a view to create an environment conducive to rapid industrialisation and on terms and conditions whereby India's goods would find ready space elsewhere in the world. At that time also, there were lots of doubts about the wisdom of the Government. But since then, despite changes in Governments, there was no change in the direction of reforms. All political parties, have sworn by economic reforms and that our country needs economic reforms to realise its full developmental potential. The hon. Leader of the Opposition said that the UPA inherited a fast growing economy and we have made a mess of it. He said that we first created the crisis and, now, we are trying to resolve this crisis. This reference was to the expenditure that was incurred by the UPA Government in the course of last nine years to bring a social balance in our patterns of spending, to pay a greater attention to social sectors of the economy. We are proud of expanding expenditure in the social sector, increasing spending in programmes that ensure access to health and education for the common man, particularly of the weaker sections of our society, increasing spending in programmes

that provide livelihood security to the poor and making all sincere efforts for fulfilling our commitment for inclusive growth. The results are for everyone to see.

Whether you look at rural development and road programme, the National Highways Authority is working. There has been a tremendous increase in expenditure under the UPA Government. There may be some problems with regard to the way the Programme is being managed. But these are problems of a fast-growing economy trying to realise its full development potential. Therefore, the record of the UPA Government speaks for itself. I believe that when it comes to dealing with terrorism, all the political parties will speak with one voice. It will be our effort that in order to bring about a broad national consensus, we will work with the State Governments to give meaning and substance to the proposal of the NCTC. With regard to the developments in Jammu and Kashmir, I would once again say to this House that we will not do anything which is against the national interest.

I share the concern that more should be done for the development of our agriculture. Agriculture has been doing quite well in the last eight or nine years. But I would be the last person to deny that more attention needs to be paid to the development of our agriculture and I am very happy that some of the BIMARU States are showing good results. People and Governments are now trying to grapple with the problem of backwardness more effectively. *Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana*, National Food Security Bill have made an impact and the growth process, particularly in agriculture, is showing positive trend. Our Government will remain alive to the needs of our farmers.

We are in an unsettled neighbourhood. We will never compromise with our national interests. It will be our effort to work with the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure that Tamil people of Sri Lanka do get the chance to lead a life of dignity and self-respect as equal citizens of the country. We have made sincere efforts to normalize our relations with Pakistan and achieved some progress in

this regard. But there cannot be normalization of relations between our two countries unless and until the terror machine is brought under control. Our President's visit to Bangladesh was deeply appreciated by the Government and people of Bangladesh. Land Boundary Agreement is an Agreement which would ensure peace and tranquility on the border, which would remove uncertainties, and this agreement is in the interest of both the countries. We sincerely hope that the multi-party democracy will survive and thrive in Nepal. Our effort has been to work with the Government and the people of Nepal to strengthen the processes and working of multi-party democracy. We believe that the best course is to have free and fair elections to the office of the President in Maldives, which are due in September, 2013.

We will look into all those issues which have figured in the debate. I once again request the House to thank the hon. President for his gracious address.

*All the amendments moved were withdrawn.*

*The Motion of Thanks was adopted.*

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#### **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS**

Following Bills were introduced:

- I. The Youth (Development and Welfare) Bill, 2012
- II. The Special Assistance to The State of Andhra Pradesh Bill, 2012
- III. The Financial Assistance to Girl Child Belonging to Parents Living Below Poverty Line Bill, 2012
- IV. The Ban of Obscene Advertisements Bill, 2013
- V. The Prevention of Begging and Rehabilitation of Beggars Bill, 2013
- VI. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (Amendment) Bill, 2013

**Official Language Bill, 2012-Contd.**

**SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA, continuing his unfinished speech dated 22-02-2013, said:** I stand here for further consideration of the Official Language Bill, 2012, which proposes to repeal and replace the Official Language Act, 1963, in order to ensure that all regional languages that have been recognized under Schedule VIII of the Constitution can be used for all official purposes of the Union. In the Constitution which we adopted in 1950 said that Hindi in Devanagari script will be the official language of the Union and for fifteen years, English would be a language associated with that and after that only Hindi will be the official language. Subsequent to that, there was a great agitation in Tamil Nadu. I should thank the UPA Government, which has declared Tamil as a classical language. I am proud that I belong to the Tamil speaking community. But it is being disregarded and has not been accredited with due respect. If one language has to be there to maintain unity, can anyone argue that there should be only one religion to keep this country as one country with unity. Unity in diversity is the basic principle of our Indian politics. Language cannot bind a nation or a State. All regional languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution must be regarded as official languages of the Union.

One language which is the language of a part of the country, just because it is spoken by a majority of the people here cannot rule the entire country. So, we launched agitations. We are not against any particular language now. We want our language to be given the official status which another regional language in this country is enjoying. What is wrong in that? The decision of the House should be agreeable to the country as a whole. I am proud to be here as the Member of the DMK party which has saved other sections of the country, who are non-Hindi speaking people, not to become slaves in the same country. If you are considering everyone in this country as equal, why don't you give us that status?

When under article 347 the state can have more number of languages, why cannot that be in the case of the Union also? The

Official Language of a State must be allowed to be used as the language in the High Court. That has been the demand for very long. On the question of whether it is possible to have more languages in the Centre we say that when the country is spending so much, why can't it spend on something to maintain unity, to develop the languages of the country? Even the United Nations has so many languages. All the people from various parts of the country should support this Bill.

Earlier we were totally against Hindi. But, now, we are good friends. Our only demand is, give our language also the same status. Why does the Central Government say that Tamil Nadu can't communicate with the Centre in Tamil and that they will have to have their own arrangement for translation? I think a few crores of rupees for maintaining and developing the unity of this country are nothing. What prevents the Central Government offices in the State from communicating in the official language of the State?

I thank the UPA Government that it has declared Tamil as a Classical Language. I think, the time has come to declare all the regional languages, which are in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, to be the official languages of the Union. The UPA Government in its Common Minimum Programme assured us the same.

Giving all the major languages spoken in India equality of status will ensure that there will be no unhealthy sentiment against any language. Attempts to impose one language in a multi-lingual society have resulted in separation in many other countries. Therefore, it would be unwise to impose on a multi-lingual country one language. So, I put forth that this Official Languages Bill should repeal and replace the Official Languages Act, 1963 in order to ensure that all regional languages that have been recognized under Schedule VIII of the Constitution can be used for all official purposes of the Union.

**SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE:** This Bill provides for, that whenever correspondence coming from the regional States, it cannot be done just in Hindi and English but it could be done in any of the

regional languages. In this matter 60 years ago three language formula was discussed and it was decided whether we should have Hindi, English or the regional languages. The Eighth Schedule was also made and today there are 22 languages in it. The Rajasthani is my mother tongue and we have been fighting for its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule. The United Nations through UNESCO has said about the recognition of all the mother languages in the world.

In today's global world we should get on to some language that we can convey to each other. Communication is the biggest thing today. We have Facebook, Google, youtube etc. People want to talk to everybody. But to have more languages would be very difficult. In China there were so many languages earlier but now they have only one language. The European Union has lots of languages. There is a problem when they do business, when they communicate. The conclusion of a study conducted on the problems of the European Union was, that for every document, they have to spend billions and billions of rupees on translation. Today, all the European countries teach three languages. A study of the UNESCO revealed that there are hundreds of languages which are becoming obsolete. We want our GDP to grow. The GDP growth depends on better communication or on becoming savvier with computer. So, though I have love for my mother tongue, I will not support this Bill.

**SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA:** I support some of the arguments put forward by Mr. Siva. He was putting his arguments in favour of Tamil. We also support Tamil. But, I think, in addition to Tamil, all other languages could also be declared as official languages. There was an assurance given in this regard in the UPA's Common Minimum Programme. I think, that can also be taken into consideration. If person cannot understand the judgment that is pronounced, then how can we say that we are giving justice to everybody? The Government has to give a serious thought for giving the real information to the public in the regional language. The deliberation of the judgment also should be made available in the regional language. Even though Odiya language is a also very old language, it has not been given the status of classical language till

now. Folk songs, tales, riddles, anecdotes and folk theatres are existing certainly before the written literature shows old and rich tradition of Odiya language.

The Government of India can think as to how to communicate with people in their own language and how to use regional language as official language of the Government of India. I will not insist on making Odia as official language now but I will definitely fight to the last till Odia language is declared, at least, classical language. I also request hon. Minister to consider whether all other languages can also be given an opportunity to be used as official language of the country.

**SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY:** I support Mr. Siva. When you talk about correspondence between the Centre and the State, you can use three language formula. In those languages, it can be English, Hindi and the regional language. So, let us use language as a bonding force by accepting all the languages in the constitution. I do admit that you can't have 22 languages operating simultaneously, but you can always have regional language also. I leave it to the Government of India, to have a Language Commission again and see how far they can accommodate all the 22 languages.

**PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:** I think our country is the only country which has no its official language till date. Policy of my party has also been that the alongwith Hindi the State official work should be done in its regional language and Hindi should be used to communicate with the centre. If any letter comes from Tamil Nadu, that should come in both Tamil and Hindi. There are so many countries in the world that have made progress through their languages. It is a very strange that people hesitate to use their own mother tongue. The regional language should be encouraged to remove the domination of English language. The best expression can only be done in our mother tongue. Therefore we have been supporting this Bill since beginning. If it happens, communication would increase. The people would like to read and write the other languages. It would also increase the prestige of the country. I support

this Bill from the point of view that the Hindi should be accepted as official language and the other languages should also be made official languages in their respective states and all corresponding should be done with the center in those languages.

**DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT:** I support this Bill. This is the problem with this nation that we do not speak our language and that is why we are a disintegrated nation.

Many people in my State do not understand Hindi. This problem is in most of the States. When people go to some Central Government office for their work, they feel awkward when they are asked to produce translated copy of their documents originally written in their regional language. I am Marathi speaking and had faced a similar problem. Marathi is a rich and age old language. During Shivaji's period, Marathi speaking people went from Tamil Nadu to Afghanistan. If there is a status to all regional languages, languages will start flowing two and fro in the country. It will create a great fabric of social and cultural homogeneity among Indians and that will make India a great country. Our regional languages should be given due respect and honour. So that we can bring the nation together.

**SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA:** Our forefathers faced inhuman atrocities by the Britishers and sacrificed their lives to get this country free. At that time they had two aims in their minds, one was to force the Britishers to leave the country and second was that English language should also go out of the country. Britishers left the country but English language still remains here. Most of our Members of Parliament prefer English to speak in Parliament than their own language.

We are not against regional languages, we are against English. Even today some people are jealous of the language which is spoken by the majority in the country. This is a political jealousy. In 1963 the Parliament formulated Official Language Bill and it was accepted in that Bill that Hindi will be the Official Language. Official Language Hindi can only be the language which can bring this country together. When the people of this country have accepted

Hindi as an Official Language then there is no need to move a new Bill in this regard.

**SHRI P. KANNAN:** Everybody loves mother-tongue. If you say that you love your mother-tongue gives a meaning that you hate other languages. But my humble request is that we must learn to respect everybody's language. Only then our mother-tongue would get automatically respected.

The common man does not understand English. It is a pathetic situation. Hence, regional language must be maximum utilized. Even Hindi is not being used 90 percent in the official communications in the Government of India. The official communications of the Government are being done in English. I would never be against any language. I love my mother tongue. I would caution not to the Hindi-speaking people, eliminate the use of English language. This is the only language in which you communicate with the whole world. But I would also say that if you do not know Hindi, you feel that something is lost. In Europe, they have three languages. The mother tongue is already there. English is also there. Language is for communication. It is not that I communicate only within Tamil Nadu and that I would not move out of Tamil Nadu. Unfortunately, English is not widely known in India. In the form of English we have inherited slavery mentality from Britishers. I am the only Member who signs only in Tamil on the Attendance Register. When I took oath, it was in Tamil. Every language should be respected. I respect my mother tongue because I respect the Hindi-speaking people. Without respecting Hindi, I cannot respect Tamil. I support the Bill brought by my friend, Shri Siva.

**SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:** If I want to speak in this House in my language, I have to get permission. This is exactly what we are trying to bring to the notice. Let us speak in Hindi, or any other language, I would just like to rise and start speaking in my mother tongue, about my issues. I can be very sure that every Member here will be able to understand what I speak because there are simultaneous translations in all Official Languages, all the languages which are in

the Eight Schedule. This is exactly what our request is. Members spoke here with passion about their mother tongue. Somebody here actually insulted us, insulted a movement, insulted a history by saying that it is all a political gimmick. I do not support killing people themselves but so many youngsters in the anti-Hindi agitation did it. When I am talking of anti-Hindi agitation, I would really like to make one thing clear that it is neither against any language, nor against Hindi as a language, but it is against imposing a language on a region, on a State. There is a difference between opposing a language and imposing a language on us. People are saying that majority speaks Hindi but a minority opposes it. I would like to say on behalf of my party, if any language is going to be imposed on us, in Tamil Nadu, we will resist.

**SHRI A.V. SWAMY:** I offer to see what a language has to do with our unification and with enhancement of our value system. *(Speech unfinished)*

*Discussion not concluded.*

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## SPECIAL MENTIONS

### **1. Need to set CBI or Judicial Inquiry into the Alleged Irregularities in Debt Waiver Scheme for Farmers in the Country**

**SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI:** The Government of India announced Rs.71,680 crores Agricultural Debt Relief Scheme for farmers in 2008. But, the CAG Report has made it clear that there are a lot of irregularities and siphoning off funds in more than 22 per cent of cases it scrutinized. This is more than Rs.10,000 crores scam. The share of Andhra Pradesh in this Scheme is Rs.11,353.71 crores. There 66,46,198 farmers were made eligible under this Scheme. Out of these, 11.09 lakhs have got 25 per cent relief. An amount of Rs.40,76,107 has been given to 132 ineligible people. Ballikuduva Gramina Bank in Andhra Pradesh tampered with accounts and brought 17 big farmers under the Scheme and thereby siphoned off

Rs.10.62 lakhs. In view of this, I demand for handing over this case to CBI or having Judicial Inquiry.

**2. Need to re-frame Rules to make medial Education cheaper in the Country**

**SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL:** I want to draw attention of Health Minister and Government to this fact that because of stringent rules for Medical Education, it has become very costly. Similarly number of certified teachers in record is also not factual. I want that Government should consider it with an open mind. At least mandatory rules should be followed and wrong record should not be kept. By these measures expenditure on Medical Colleges can be reduced up to 40 to 60 per cent . Besides, due to rate of uncontrolled medicines, patent and other laws burden being increased on patients. I urge upon the Government to take these two matters seriously and issue a set of practical and good rules.

**3. Need to Prepare a Vision Document for Railway Connectivity of the Country to Neighbouring countries**

**SHRI TARUN VIJAY:** There is an urgent need to have a grand vision for the expansion of the Indian Railways to the border areas of India, like Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal, Sikkim, Ladakh, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Besides, let the Indian leadership create a great vision to have Railway connection between Delhi and Kathmandu, Lhasa, Beijing and Colombo. Indian Railways must think in terms of taking the glorious rail connection from India's North-East to Bangkok, Mandalay, Singapore and beyond. I demand Indian Railway Minister should prepare a vision document to connect India with her neighbours and East Asian countries in the next 20 years.

**SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,**  
*Secretary-General.*

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**ERRATA TO THE SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE DATED 7<sup>TH</sup>  
MARCH, 2013**

<b>Page No.</b>	<b>Line No.</b>	<b>Correction</b>
130	29	Delete ' <i>(Some Hon'ble Members also spoke.)</i> '
132	34	Read ' <i>associated</i> ' for ' <i>associate</i> '
135	1	Read ' <b>MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS</b> '
	21	Delete 'there' after 'system'
146	32	Delete 'these' after 'in'
151	4	Read 'included' for 'including'
	24	Read 'included' for 'including'
152	25	Delete ' <i>Discussion not concluded</i> '