

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, March 11, 2013/Phalguna 20, 1934 (Saka)

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Viren J. Shah, a former Member of this House, on the 9th of March, 2013, at the age of 86 years.

Born in May, 1926 at Kolkata, Shri Shah was educated at Hansraj Morarji Public School, Mumbai, G.S. Commerce College, Wardha, Ramnarain Ruia College, Mumbai and Harvard Business School, Boston, U.S.A. An industrialist and a public worker, Shri Shah was associated with educational and rural development activities in Gujarat. He also served as President of the Indian Merchants Chamber, Mumbai, in 1973, the Gujarat State Petrochemicals Limited from 1977 to 1980, the Indian National Committee of International Chambers of Commerce in 1987 and the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India from 1989 to 1990. Shri Shah was trustee of the Lotus Trust, J.M. Foundation, Mahavir Heart and Research Foundation and Nehru Centre. Shri Shah had also written several articles on

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

various issues including lectures published as booklets on '*Perestroika*' and '*Privatisation*'. He was an avid sports lover.

Shri Viren J. Shah started his legislative career as a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha from 1967 to 1970. Shri Shah represented the State of Gujarat in this House from August 1975 to August 1981 and the State of Maharashtra from April 1990 to April 1996. He also served as the Governor of West Bengal from 1999 to 2004.

In the passing away of Shri Viren J. Shah, the country has lost an outstanding administrator and a distinguished parliamentarian. We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Viren J. Shah.

(One Minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.)

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Need to emphasise on Moral Education in the Curriculum of School Children.

SHRI K. PARASARAN: I would make a presentation on the need for curriculum in the schools being based on moral and ethical values. It is a constitutional postulate that moral values are very essential. Today the topic 'education' has been shifted to list III so that Parliament has the jurisdiction to even make enactments to include in the curriculum of schools, value-based and ethical-based education. Today, it is all more necessary that it has to be included in the curriculum in the schools for the reason that we have now almost liquidated the joint family stem. Both the parents have to pursue careers. They have no time to spend time with their children and inculcate values in them. Therefore, this has to be considered as very imperative.

2. Para Teacher Crisis in the State of Jharkhand

SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: I want to draw the attention of the Parliament and the Central Government to the pathetic condition of Para Teachers of Jharkhand. There are more than 60,000 Para Teachers in Jharkhand. They are not paid any salary. They are getting 5 to 6,000 only per month as honorarium. They want to be permanent and live with respect. The State Government cannot make these Para Teachers permanent nor can it increase their salary because of its total plan budget. I urge upon the Central Government to find out a solution to this problem by granting special package and financial package.

3. Alarming situation in India's Neighbouring Countries

DR. NAJMA A. HEPTULLA: I want to urge upon the Government and the country as to what happened in his country with Christians and Minorities on the day the Prime Minister of Pakistan was praying for the peace in the world at Ajmer Sharif. All the Christians colonies in Lahore were sabotaged and set on fire. Today Hindus have become minority because of the genocide done with them. Their daughters are converted. When such incidents take place in our neighbourhood, it also affects our society. I urge upon the Government to raise these issues at international level.

(Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudi, Shri Balbir Punj, Dr. Ram Prakash and Shri Husain Dalwai associated.)

4. Import of Cashew Products in India

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: In the name of cattle feed and low import duty, cashew is imported. Even kernels are imported. It is affecting our industry very much. Indian industry is making 3 to 4 lakh tones of cashew nuts out of 15 lakh tones of raw cashew. We are exporting it. Our Finance Minister is very much trying to control our fiscal deficit and

balance of payment issue. Cashew and kernel products are coming from other countries. They are bringing the cashew inside the country. Our export is being affected and our domestic market is being affected. I request the Finance Minister and the Commerce Minister that there should be some specific duty per kilogram of cashew which is imported.

5. Exceptional Increase in the Fare of Airport Metro

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: I want to draw the attention of the Government to the fare hike at the Airport Metro. The Passengers of Airport Metro are in great resentment over the way fare has been increased in Airport Metro. 25-30 percent increase has been made in the fare. The intention behind the plying of the Airport Metro has somewhere or other changed because of this fare hike. I, therefore, demand that Government should withdraw the hike of fare in Airport Metro.

6. Increasing Incidents of Female Foeticide in the Country

SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: I want to draw the attention of the Government to a very serious issue of Female Foeticide. There is a want of 8.5 crore girls in the country as far as ratio of population in the country is concerned. Besides, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Chandigarh, Daman and Diu has the most alarming situation. A woman who gives birth to Sants, Great Men, Kings and Emperors should be respected. We have no dearth of legislations. I demand from the Government that those laws should be enforced.

(Shrimati Bimla Kashyap Sood, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Shri Narendra Kumar Kashyap, Shri D. Bandyopadhyay and Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad associated.)

7. Imposition of ban by UPSC on writing Civil Services Final Examination in Telugu

SHRI C.M RAMESH: The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has made it mandatory for students to study Telugu as one of the subjects at degree level to appear for final exam of the Civil Services. But, the order says that if there are not more than 25 candidates available to appear for final exam, such candidates will not be allowed to write in Telugu and have to write either in English or in Hindi. The UPSC's decision is unjustified, illogical, unfounded and is injustice to the students of Andhra Pradesh. If this decision is implemented, Andhra Pradesh may end up with officers who have never studied Telugu and it will impact the governance badly since Telugu is the main communicative language in Andhra Pradesh. Besides, the logic applied for choosing Telugu as an optional subject doesn't apply to other optional subjects. The Government should immediately direct the UPSC to withdraw the order without any delay.

(Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu associated.)

8. All-India Strike by Bar Council of India

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Today, the Bar Council of India, the apex statutory body of lawyers, has called for a strike because lawyers in Chandigarh and Jaipur have been very severely assaulted by the police. Lawyers ensure the rule of law in the country and assist in the administration of justice. If senior lawyers, in the court premises, suffer these kinds of brutalities, it is certainly not fair. The Government should ensure that this kind of treatment to senior lawyers is avoided. Therefore, I condemn the treatment meted out to the lawyers and associate myself with the call given by the Bar Council of India.

(Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu, Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri and Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy associated.)

GOVERNMENT BILLS

Following Bills were introduced:

1. The North Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, 2013
2. The National Institute of Design Bill, 2013

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Amendment) Bill, 2013

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM), moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said: We are coming to this House with this Amendment Bill for Amendment of Section 15M of the Act. Currently the Act provides under Section 15M that for being considered eligible for appointment as the Chairman of the Securities Appellate Tribunal, the person must be a sitting or retired Judge of the Supreme Court or a sitting or retired Chief Justice of a High Court. Unfortunately, despite the best efforts of the hon. Chief Justice, we have not been able to find a Judge who is willing to take over this post. Therefore, the Chief Justice and I came to the conclusion that while we keep those qualifications as the first qualification, we add a second qualification where he could be a retired Judge of a High Court. The Chief Justice has assured me that he is still making efforts to find a retired Judge of the Supreme Court or a retired Chief Justice of a High Court to accept this post. But since we can't keep this post vacant too long, we may have to choose a senior Judge of a High Court. The Chief Justice has, more or less, completed his exercise. Once the Bill is passed, we hope that we can make the appointment.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: I agree with the Minister that it is only to enlarge the field of selection of the Presiding Officer of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT). But why is this minimum period of seven years? I have not been able to understand that. SEBI has been doing a good work. But, how many cases SEBI has taken up of major lapses of the brokers? Or is it just the small broker that SEBI catches and leaves the big fish? When we talk about volatility, today it is even bigger than the 1990s or a decade ago or two decades ago. But the important thing is that you have to give confidence to the investor. In case of a retrospective taxation, you lose the confidence not only of the investor in India but also of the one who comes from outside, the FII. FII is a very big investor. The delay in giving permission is one of the major hindrances in investments in India. The SEBI takes four to six months for giving the permission. This fund, when we are so much dependent on the FII, cannot wait and this is one of the major hindrances.

As regards, mutual fund, investment into mutual fund today has really dissipated. In the Budget, you have cut down on the commission to brokers. Today it is Rs.50 or something for an investment of Rs.1 lakh. Who is going to waste his time doing that? One of the biggest things in the last two JPCs on the stock market scam was the insider trading. What is the SEBI thinking about it. Is it only the small fish, the small brokers, that you catch or is it even the big companies? Which are the big fishes that have really done insider trading and are still involved in it.

SHRI C. P. NARAYANAN: The stock market is controlling a greater part of our economy and FII and FDI are also entering into the stock market and the controlling authority is SEBI. During the last two years, in more than one case, the Supreme Court has expressed its displeasure in the way SEBI had been handling things. So, this Tribunal, its presiding officer and its Member become all the more

important. We should have people beyond any doubt presiding over it. I think there is a trivialization of SEBI and its Tribunal. Is our Government handling SEBI with the seriousness and importance that it requires? In SEBI, private interest is becoming more and more important in the decision making. The Government should try to find out a person satisfying the existing provisions of Section 15M.

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: SEBI plays a very important role. The private companies and corporates are nowadays playing a more prominent role in our economy. So, it is very essential that the Finance Ministry controls them through SEBI and its appellate tribunal. The integrity of the President and the members of this organization should be beyond doubt. It is not merely the length of the service of judges, but also their integrity and honesty that should be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble Minister, replying to the debate, said:
I am grateful to all the sections of the House, of all the political parties who are supporting the Bill. SEBI is among the best capital market regulators in the world. It has a very important place in IOSCO, which is the international organization of capital market regulators. SAT is the appellate authority. The last Chairman who retired was an outstanding Judge, Justice N.K. Sodhi of Punjab. I want to place on record my deep appreciation of the work he did. The quality of his orders, the quality of the orders passed by the SAT, were outstanding.

Capital market is a highly technical subject. Only a judge who has dealt with commercial and corporate laws, and matters relating to capital market, would be comfortable in dealing with the matters that come up before SAT. The Chief Justice felt that a person, who served as a judge for seven years, is senior enough to preside over this Tribunal. That is why we chose seven years. The SAT has two members and

they are disposing of cases. As far as the actions taken by SEBI are concerned, SEBI has suspended trading in 1,125 companies. There are two powers in respect of irregularities in the capital market. One is to suspend trading and the other is to delist the company. So, SEBI is extremely active. The SEBI's orders are taken up in appeal to SAT. But, once the Chairman comes, I am sure, they will dispose of cases also. With regard to the Sensex and the Nifty itself, up to 31.12.2012, it has risen by 25 per cent. Because it is a well-regulated market, it has given a good return. Foreign investor's confidence in the market is shown by the fact that in 2012, FIIs invested 31 billion dollars in India. Therefore, these are indicators that our market is a well-regulated market.

It is my intention that there should be one KYC across regulators. We take a very strict view of insider-trading. The insider traders are very clever people. We have to be cleverer than them. I have impressed upon the SEBI that its surveillance must improve and we will take strict action against anyone who indulges in insider-trading. The Act clearly specifies that a Presiding Officer can hold office for a period of five years and he cannot hold office beyond the age of 68. We do appoint people who are legally trained. These are legal functions. This is a tribunal. The appeal from the SAT goes to the Supreme Court. So, you must be legally trained. You can't appoint somebody who is not legally trained to a tribunal. That is why we have legally trained people. Therefore, I think confidence is built only if a distinguished judge chairs this Tribunal. I request that the Bill be passed.

The motion for consideration of the Bill, was adopted.

Clauses etc., as amended, were adopted.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

INCREASING POLLUTION IN VARIOUS RIVERS IN THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY THE GANGA AND THE YAMUNA RIVERS.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD, initiating the discussion, said: It is subject of satisfaction that an important discussion on alarming situation of rivers of the country, particularly of Ganga and Yamuna is taking place in the House. These rivers are lifeline of the country. It is not a question of potable water or water for irrigation but it is question of faith, legacy and culture of the country. Every river has its own story and spirituality. India has 12 major, 46 medium and 14 small river basins. What we have done with our spiritual and social legacy today? I am very pained to say that, today, Yamuna has been reduced to a sewer or a *gutter*. It is a subject of concern. Whether Mathura and Vrindavan can be imagined without Yamuna? I would like to ask that why it is happening. There is no fresh flow of water left in the Yamuna. This is most serious thing. Yamuna lands in Delhi after originating from Yamnotri. It is a unique ratio that the Yamuna river traverses only 22 kilometers in Delhi, yet 70 per cent of its pollution is referable to Delhi, sourced at Delhi i.e. Two per cent distance and 70 per cent pollution. 5500 Crores of rupees have been spent so far for making Yamuna pollution free. After spending so much amount of tax payers, Yamuna still full of Industrial waste and looks like a sewer in Delhi. We are seriously concern in this regard. I would like to know reply from Hon'ble minister.

Industrial effluents and domestic sewage are the two factors which are responsible for polluting river Yamuna. As far as standards of Central Pollution Control Board are concerned, sewage pollution contributes 70-80 percent in Yamuna's pollution. It is easy to identify Industrial Pollution.

What is the amount of industrial waste being discharged in Yamuna from Sonipat to Agra and number of factories against which action has been taken? As per report, Chemical waste being discharged in Yamuna is highly toxic and dangerous. Water treatment plants in Panipat and Sonipat for treating Yamuna water have stopped working because they could not take that severe level of pollution. It is a matter of concern. I am given to understand that 17 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) in Delhi is almost 40 per cent of India's total installation. No one is working out of them. Drainage system is not working. Treated water and non-treated water is mixing with each other due to non-functioning of drainage system.

Sewage system must be taken care before authorizing the colonies in Delhi. There is a new concept of Interceptor Sewers. In this system, sewage treatment plants are established along the river banks. Despite spending crores of rupees, Yamuna has become more polluted. Does the quality of water of Yamuna satisfy even after relaxing BOD level? My understanding of a clean water is a visibly clean water, and I shall be measuring the benchmark of your answer with the same yardstick. I hope that Hon'ble minister will tell something about this. The assimilative capacity of Yamuna water has been seriously degenerated and eroded. We are using water of Yamuna for various purposes and putting effluents and waste therein. No action has been taken in this direction so far. How much amount have been spent on cleaning of Yamuan? What are results thereof? The Supreme court, Delhi High court and Allahabad High court have intervened remarkably. Numbers of NGOs have done good work. Thousands of saints under the leadership of Naresh Baba and Jaikishen Das are campaigning so that Yamuna may get clean. This is the pain of people, court and NGOs. Government can't be indifferent from this. We are expressing

our pain here in Parliament so that there may be some way out. Whether there is any special scheme for Mathura and Vrindavan? It is high time that instead of Action Plan I and II, there is a transparent and committed revival plan for Yamuna.

Ganga is the life line of this country and we worshipped it as a mother. Whether it is now world's most polluted river? It is very painful. Our fisheries are also adversely affected with it. Many saints have struggled for it. Where all this money is going? We should make collective efforts to protect the Ganga. What you have done about the coliform in rivers? The serene steams of Ganga should never be deviated. To cross the Ganga from the tunnel for hydro power is not acceptable. Rivers of South India are also not in a good condition. Do you have any plan to make these rivers pollution-free as a part of national mission? If you have a plan, what is the blue-print and how are you going to involve all the stake holders? Sabarmati river which was became a gutter has been restored with all efforts. I demand that white paper should be brought in Parliament so that we can know about the condition of rivers specially Ganga and Yamuna.

You establish CRZ alongside the sea. Are you considering to establish any River Regulation Zone on the banks of the rivers so that real estate cannot be developed there and there must be control on the banks of the big rivers also? What are you doing about the uncontrolled construction in this country? Efforts should be made to protect the banks of the rivers from urbanization and industrialization. It is the pain of the everybody and it is across the party line and the politics. I assure you that we will give you our full-cooperation in your efforts being made in this direction. Otherwise, we will do injustice with our future generations.

DR. RAM PRAKASH: Ganga and Yamuna are the symbol of Indian Culture. They are not only the flow of water, they are flow of our culture. Today, Ganga Yamuna Culture is in danger. Ganga is not only great and sacred river of our country but it is also one of the greatest river of the world. We worship these rivers. 40 percent population of 11 states of this country get water from these rivers.

Despite implementing Ganga Action Plan, Ganga is still polluted. Why are these rivers still polluted when thousands of crores of rupees have been spent on this to make these rivers pollution-free? Today, the water of Ganga is not fit for drinking, bathing and even for cultivation. If the River Thames can be cleaned then why can Ganga not be cleaned? In these rivers 20 percent pollution is due to industries and 80 percent pollution is due to sewage. Hazardous chemicals, present in the waste of industries are causing cancer to the people who are living alongside the rivers. Daily 290 crore liter of sewerage is going into the Ganga. The capacity of Sewage Treatment Plant is only 110 crore liter and rest of the 180 crore is going untreated.

70-80 percent of pollution in Yamuna is because of Delhi. 37 percent of the waste going into Yamuna is untreated. The poor Yamuna carries waste and become dead here in Delhi. All the rivers in the country are having the same fate. I would suggest that putting sewage and industrial waste in to the river Yamuna and Ganga should be made a punishable offence. And the licence of the industries responsible for the same should be cancelled. Municipal Bodies should also be made responsible. If these Bodies put untreated sewage water into any of the river the officials of these Bodies should also be punished.

I would also suggest that several meetings of National Ganga River Basin Authority should be conducted every year and the experts of the field should also have their say in

these meetings. The provision should also be made to divert the funds from MPLAD fund for cleaning of these rivers and that too without any upper limit. Ganga belongs not only to Hindus but to all the communities. We should take pledge that we will not pollute the Ganga any more.

PROF. S. P. SINGH BAGHEL: The Ganga and Yamuna not only have the religious importance but the social, economic and agricultural importance also. There is no other example in the world that a river is worshiped and called mother and Aarti is performed on its banks by the people except in the case of river Yamuna and Ganga. Though UNICEF may declare Yamuna and Ganga as the most polluted rivers in the world but it can't stop their religious belief. The religious importance of Ganga is not confined to Hindus only. It is equally important for Muslims also who perform their 'Waju' with its holy water. That is why Ganga has been glorified for years and it symbolizes our culture.

You have been in the power for the last 50-60 years. So you are the main culprit. You have spent so much money but it is all futile and these rivers are still polluted inspite of several Action Plans. I would like to ask whether this fund was utilized or consumed. The officials related to these action plan have become rich but these rivers are still polluted.

Today the real Ganga originates from 'Gangotri' and ends at Hardwar while river Yamuna originates from 'Yamunotri' and ends before entering in to Delhi. The people of 'Braj Area' are really very agitated and this movement is not related to any political party. This movement belongs to the people who love the river Yamuna and Ganga and they started their march towards Delhi on 5th of March. My state UP is not getting sufficient water from Yamuna like Delhi and Haryana. I would urge upon the Government to release 2000 Quesec of water from 'Hathini Kund' Barrage for UP.

Delhi is getting clean water but passes it to UP after polluting it. You may install so many treatment plant but the truth is this that sewage water can't be treated fully. The farmers of 'Do-aaba' region are suffering the most because of lack of water and the polluted water of these rivers. We should not put any type of waste, dead bodies etc. into the rivers. We should use electric crematoriums for cremation of dead bodies.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Both the major rivers, Ganga and Yamuna, are polluted. Some stretches are not even fit for bathing. Despite huge spending on Ganga Action Plan and on Yamuna Action Plans the desired results could not be achieved. It is a matter of grave concern that Yamuna, on Delhi side, has today become one of the darkest rivers in the country. According to the latest Census Report, a large number of people are not having toilets in their houses. So, all that human waste is coming to the rivers through rains. The situation all over the country also is quite apathetic. Leave aside the scientific disposal system, even the disposal grounds are absent in most of the cities. Half-burn dead bodies are thrown in the Ganges because the electric crematoriums are not running. Even the electric charges are so high that it is very difficult for the local bodies to run it.

Scientific temperament will also have to be brought in. Tannery waste, every industrial waste, untreated waters, etc. have spoiled Ganga, Yamuna and other rivers also. Greater monitoring, enforcement of expanded coverage by Central and State Pollution Control Board are all the things that are necessary to tackle this problem. It has been said by many that it is a poisonous river. In spite of the two Acts that we have this is the situation. What is the action taken in this regard? I would like to mention that in many States not only recharging of river but also recharging of ground water level is needed during the flood season particularly. I hope the

Government will answer on all these points. All our rivers should be properly dealt with.

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA, making his maiden speech;
said: The Ganga is mother for us. The Ganga water has become the place of all kinds of diseases. The condition is so bad that we even don't know as to what is the extent of pollution and where it is and how can we prevent it? It is our duty to safeguard mother, land and man. Can our Government do nothing in this regard? Bengal is the last piece of journey of mother Ganga. Since 1986 about Rs. 400 crores have been spent only in Bengal through Ganga Action Plan and through various other schemes. I would like to know as to where this amount has been used or misused?

Ganga Action Plan has appeared as a big deception, a big scam with Bengal. We do not have even remote hope of getting assistance from Central Government. I request the Government to prepare a Central Ganga River Water Distribution Policy. There should be deliberations over it. A new dimension should be started after meeting of experts. The condition of Kolkata Port Trust has also become pitiable due to this reason. The Service Council of National Ganga Basin Authority has held only three meetings till date since its constitution. The Council under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister has also held no meeting in 2011 and 2012. Even the Committee for its implementation has also not held any meeting. In reality there is no vision and no initiative. We expect a concrete step by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. I request him to take some action with regard to Ganga. Tourists come to Varanasi and other parts of the country for Darshan and to take a holy dip in Ganga. So don't spoil this tourism potential. I have been forced to ask whether we are really resident of the country where Ganga flows.

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV: This is the most important question. Today Yamuna has stopped at

Hathini Kund. At Nizamudddin BOD level is 27. Today, the situation is very dangerous. There are 500 big and small factories along its bank. There are tanneries which release waste and pollute the water. I have been raising this issue since three days. There should be a survey as to in what number the diseases are increasing due to this polluted water? These Ganga and Yamuna rivers which are symbol of our faith, have today become symbol of disease. So, we need to prevent all these things. Now no creatures can live in it. I would like to thank Swami Ramesh Baba on whose call this movement has been started.

I would like to request that to keep our rivers pollution-free, we have to stop discharging drain water and effluents of industries of our cities and towns into them.

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Today we are discussing such an issue which is a question of life and death for major population. As per the details given by the National Environment Research Institute, 85 percent of our ground water flows in 14 rivers of the country. The water of these rivers has become polluted at an alarming level. Different types of diseases are spreading due to use of water of these rivers. The main reason behind the pollution of rivers is the discharge of chemicals and waste of factories and industries into the rivers. In the competition of increasing the GDP, we are adopting the policy of large scale industrialization. It is polluting our ground water and damaging the ecological balance. To keep our rivers clean, we have to change this policy of development. Global warming is becoming dangerous to our country while western countries are taking advantage of it. We should not follow them.

We are also polluting our rivers by performing some of our religious customs on the banks of rivers. We throw flowers wrapped in polythene into the river and leave dead

bodies in river. We have to adopt 'Swadeshi' and change our life style. It can also be helpful in keeping our rivers clean.

SHRI SHASHI BHUSAN BEHERA: Today, we are discussing a very important and sensitive issue pertaining to the pollution of rivers of the country. Our apprehension is that the pollutants in the religious rivers will cause cancer. We have so many plans like the Ganga Action Plan, National Ganga River Basin Authority and Ganga River Basin Management Plan to clean Ganga. But nothing happened even after spending crores of rupees for cleaning Ganga and Yamuna. Our existing infrastructure is not capable to treat sewage being discharged into the main stream of river Ganga. Over the years, industries along the river have been releasing harmful effluents into the river. The river and those living along its banks are paying a price for it. In spite of the huge investment under various schemes and projects, pollution levels in the Ganga continue to increase unabated. To check the pollution of rivers Government must come out with a time bound action plan.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: In terms of water, food and other numerous benefits Ganga and Yamuna provide sustenance to millions of people living along the banks of these rivers. Ganga is one of the most sacred rivers in the world. Once the Patit Pavini, now the Ganga herself has fallen a victim to various forms of pollution and environmental degradation. The holy Ganga of the past is fast turning into a poisonous river. It is estimated that over 12,400 million liters per day sewage is generated in the Ganga Basin, out of which only around 5,070 million liters per day gets treated presently. Approximately, 3,000 MLDs of sewage is discharged into the mainstream of the River Ganga. The relentless discharge of pollutants in the riverbed from the industries, are the major contributors to the industrial pollution in the river Ganga. The Government should preserve the natural resources of the country.

SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Rivers in our country are not just sources of life, but they also represent faith and belief of millions of Indians. It really pains me to see how our rivers are turning into sewage canals and becoming increasingly life-threatening.

Most of untreated waste generated in India is seeping into its rivers. It is turning water sources polluted. A recent survey found that not a single river is fit enough to even talking bath. If we do not contain pollution of rivers, there is bound to be an ecological imbalance. I would submit for this consideration that as we have the GDP to measure economic growth, we should also have a GEP to monitor country's natural assets. Even after 28 years of Ganga Action Plan, the status of Ganga has not changed much.

PROF. M. S. SWAMINATHAN: I shall make three points. When I was in the Planning Commission, a three-pronged strategy was developed to control this problem. The first was the Himalayan Ecosystem. Many NGOs call 'Save Himalayas, Save Ganga'. The Himalayan ecosystem is in distress and it has to be restored. The second is point pollution. What happens is that an enormous amount of effluences is discharged into rivers. This is one which we can control by both technology and regulation. The other non-point pollution can be controlled only by education and social awareness. Student are very enthusiastic to participate in such programmes. Hence, I request to revive the programme by involving universities. Religious leaders can also do their best to protect Ganga. The third one is the local bodies and the Gram Sabhas. One of our high priority areas is monitoring. These are human made problems, they have only man made solutions.

SHRI SANJAY RAUT: The subject of the Ganga is related to the belief of the country. But we have converted our rivers into drains. The Ganga is a symbol of our culture and

civilization. Even we take oath of the Ganga. The Ganga water has become poison today. In Varanasi, whatever have been done yet has had no result. The situation of the Yamuna is worsen than the Ganga. This is a matter of concern. We all are responsible for these.

SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE: The Parliament of India must have a serious look over all the river of India. When we say river, it does not mean that we are talking about flowing water between two besides. This is a half baked knowledge about rivers. The river must be understood in toto. A river is an unit with its total water content. A river is not a 'water body'. This is alive. Rivers are full of human character sticks. Rivers are not polluted by pouring flowers into it, but by the chemicals. Had the rivers not been contained being polluted, a class struggle would be started over the ownership of water. We usually don't listen to marginalised people and the last row man. Why the situations of the Ganga and the Yamuna are so pathetic? Who is responsible for that? Certainly an investigation is must. We must have a monitoring system. There should be a discipline regarding water usage. There is no equality of water usage. We must think over water saving from different angles.

SHRI K. PARASARAN, making his maiden speech, said: it is a matter of great anguish to every citizen of this country that the Ganga, the Yamuna and all other rivers should have fallen to such a plight. Yamuna is so much polluted that the Delhi Metro officials claim that the air condition systems of trains that cross the "dead" Yamuna daily are badly damaged by its toxic gases. Therefore, the imperative need is to remedy the problem. To remedy the problem, we have to get over pollution caused by untreated industrial discharge and untreated sewage from domestic usage. Whoever is responsible for pollution, should be suspended and the penalties should be levied on.

This topic has three aspects, religious, secular and spiritual. Therefore, it is the primary duty of everyone to attend to all those three aspects. It is not a case for anyone to shift blame. Respect has to be given to these two holy rivers, Ganga and Yamuna, and immediate steps should be taken to cleanse them. It is a case of resurrection and I hope that process will start.

SHRI M. RAMA JOIS: It is a very important issue. The rivers have maintained our national integration. When people go for a dip in Ganga or Tunga, they forget their caste, their religion, everything. Unfortunately, the industries are polluting the pure rivers. More than this, municipalities also discharge gutter water into the rivers. The rivers are of utmost importance for agriculture, food and also for our economy. The pollution of rivers is an offence against the nation itself. It should be prevented. The rivers have great importance not only for our culture but also for the integration of the society. The protection of the rivers is in the national interest and their destruction will be very dangerous to the country.

SHRI RAM KIRPAL YADAV: I think, the condition of Ganga and Yamuna is certainly pitiable. The main reason is that approximately 720 factories are situated in its basin on large scale. The number of cancer patients are more in the States which are associated with Ganga. Today it is getting poisonous and polluted on large scale. We are not getting any benefit of the money which has been spent on Ganga. It is being misused somewhere else. I request that firm decisions have to be taken with honesty to save these rivers. The Government should take action by taking measures in this regard.

SHRI TARUN VIJAY: We started Sindhu Darshan in 1996. The Indus river gave words like India and Indian. There is no other river in the world that gave identity to a country, a civilization. Ganga became not only lifeline of

India but lifeline for whole East Asia. Today the situation is that because of Indus Treaty with Pakistan, Laddakh and Kashmir are not getting water from Indus river. Our hypocrisy has polluted these two rivers. It is our own garbage, chemicals and fertilizers which are polluting it. Let the Government and society clean all rivers. Like our Government every Hindu is also equally responsible for making Ganga and Yamuna as a dirty drain.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: In Hardwar the Ministry was doing a good job. There effluent plants were installed. Whatever dirt is there in Hardwar, it flows into Ganga by different routs. In Kanpur instead of a Crematorium, dead bodies are thrown into the water of Ganga. In Hardwar animal bodies were floating in the Ganga. I found that tax payer's money is going waste in Hardwar. I raised a question in the Ministry how the tax payer's money can be wasted like this? Ganga Action Plan No. 1 was in difficulty. Afterwards it became Action Plan No.2. As the then Minister and now as a student of environment I can tell you that all money will go waste. That money is getting wasted. My suggestion is that you kindly think about an awareness programme.

You go to *pujari* of every temple, *Imam Sahib* of every mosque and every *Girjaghar* and tell them that they cannot pollute the Ganga. Any amount of money spent on effluent plants, various schemes or creating infrastructure would not be of any value.

CHAUDHARY MUNABBAR SALEEM: Flowing water has no religion. The water is symbol of life. Ganga is a pride, an honour and a history for the 125 crores of people of India. Ganga falls from the heights of Himalayas in a very pure form but when it comes to the ground, we Indians pollute it. If the governments have will power, they can make anything possible which seems to be impossible. Impurity of

Ganga will not stop like this, it can be stopped by a stringent law. Those who are polluting the Ganga should be behind the bars. Water is not only a symbol for human beings but also for animals. There should be a law when no dirty drain will pollute any of the rivers of India. There should be a stringent law against the factories and the people who are polluting the rivers. Only the stringent law can stop the filth going into the Ganga.

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

**ERRATA TO THE SUPPLEMENT TO SYNOPSIS OF
DEBATE DATED 7TH MARCH, 2013 AND SYNOPSIS
OF DEBATE DATED 8TH MARCH, 2013**

Page No.	Line No.	Correction
156	27	Read 'of' for 'is'
	34	Read 'whether' for 'weather'
158	05	Read 'economies' for 'economics'
159	28	Read 'This is the' for 'This the is'
162	22	Read 'gone' for 'give'
	22	Read 'country.Women' for 'country women'
163	06	Add 'to' after 'like'
	22	Delete 'is' after 'Lok Sabha'
175	12	Read 'in for 'is'