

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Tuesday, August 12, 2014/ Sravana 21, 1936 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Allegation of Sexual Harassment of a Lady Judge of Gwalior against a Sitting Judge of Madhya Pradesh High Court

SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: I rise to draw the attention of this august House to the inordinate delay in determining the truth with regard to the allegations made by a senior lady Judge against a sitting High Court Judge with regard to sexual harassment. According to her allegations there were repeated demands made by a sitting High Court Judge asking her to come to his house alone. She refused to go. Hence, she was transferred to a remote place as a matter of punishment. Consequently, out of disgust she resigned from her job. She made complaints. But, no action has been taken to determine the truth so far. I urge upon this House to use its good offices in impressing upon the Chief Justice that prompt decision should be taken on her complaint.

(Shri D.Raja, Shri P.Bhattacharya, Shri M.P.Achuthan, Dr. T.N.Seema, Shrimati Wansuk Syiem, Shri K.N. Balagopal, Ms. Anu Aga, Shri Digvijay Singh, Shri Ali Anwar Ansari, Shrimati Viplove Thakur, Shri Mahender Singh Mahra, Shri K.C.Tyagi, Shrimati Jaya Bachchan, Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri and Shri G.N.Ratanpuri associated.)

2. Alleged Fraud by Certain Banks in Sanctioning Loans to some Corporate Houses

SHRI K.C.TYGAI: Lakhs of crores rupees of financial institutions and banks are due on big corporate houses. Nexus of builders have now joined in this string. Besides, political workers, from this side or that side, are being appointed as directors in banks.

3. Delay in Declaration of Special Trains on the Festival of Onam in Kerala

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: As you are aware that lakhs of Malayalis are working outside the State. Most of them want to come to Kerala and enjoy the festival along with their families. We have always demanded for special trains from different cities to Kerala. But the Railways never take it seriously. I urge upon the Government to declare special trains as early as possible important cities to Kerala.

(Shri D.Raja, Shri K.N.Balagopal, Shri T.K.Rangarajan, Shri M.P.Achuthan, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth, Dr.T.N.Seema, Shrimati Jharna Das Baidya, Shri C.P.Narayanan and Shrimati Rajani Patil associated.)

4. Continued Cross-Border Incursions from Pakistan

SHRI PAVAN KUMAR VARMA: I stand to raise a matter related to our relations with Pakistan. Since the new Government has come to power, there have been 19 ceasefire violations. I want to ask the Government as to what is the policy framework of our dealing with Pakistan in ceasefire violations by Pakistan.

(Shri K.C.Tyagi, Shri Digvijay Singh, Shri Harivansh, Shri Arving Kumar Singh, Shri Alok Tiwari, Shri Ritabrata Banerjee, Shrimati Viplove Thakur, Shri Ramdas Athawale, Shri Ali Anwar Ansari and Shri Gulam Rasool Balyawi associated.)

5. Verification of SIM Card Holders/Mobile Phone Consumers by Telecom Companies

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Crimes are being taken place through mobile phones in the country. According to the law if a

company issues SIM card, the company is supposed to verify addresses. But almost all the company have violated this rule. TRAI has imposed penalties, but company refused to pay. I urge upon the government that strict action be taken against those people, their addresses be verified and a law be framed in this regard.

(Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, Shri K.C.Tyagi, Shri Alok Tiwari, Shri Arvind Kumar Singh and Choudhary Munavver Saleem associated.)

6. Armed Attack on a Group of Sikhs in Peshawar in Pakistan and in USA

SHRI BALVINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Sikhs are being attacked in Peshawar in Pakistan and USA. I urge upon the government that security to Sikhs may kindly be provided.

(Shri K.C.Tyagi and Shrimati Jaya Bachchan associated.)

SHRI AVTAR SINGH KARIMPURI: Sikhs are continuously being subjected to excesses in Pakistan, Afghanistan, America, England and Canada. What are our embassies doing and why the government is silent on this issue. The government must interfere into the matter.

7. Future of E-Rickshaws in Delhi

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: I would like to draw attention of the House towards a very important issue. It is related with the livelihood of two lakh people. These people run battery driven E-rickshaws. These are pollution free. Operation of the E-rickshaws has been banned by the High court. These people are in great difficulty. They should be given some temporary relief until there comes the final decision. I request that some temporary solution should be worked out immediately.

(Shri K.N. Balagopal, Shri T.K. Rangarajan, Shrimati Jaya Bachchan, Chaudhary Munavver Saleem, Shri Avtar Singh Karimpuri, Shrimati Bimla Kashyap Sood, Shri Ramdas Athawale and some hon'ble members associated.)

8. Bad Maintenance of Government Websites Which are Not Properly Updated

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Many Government websites are not properly updated. There are many sites in which links are not connected to concerned pages. Websites are an important link between the Government and the general public. New Government has come, but in many websites, the names of the Ministers are not updated. People throughout the world use websites to get details and to interact with the Government. A website is very important for the people, especially those who are working in foreign countries. Official website should give all the details. The basic data relating to the Government of India should be given in the scheduled languages. This is my request that websites should be updated properly.

(Shri T.K. Rangarajan, Shri P. Rajeeve, Shri Derek O'brien, Shrimati Kanimozhi, Shri M.P. Achuthan, Dr. T.N. Seema and Shrimati Jharna Das Baidya associated.)

9. Measures to Combat Spread of Ebola Epidemic in India

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Ebola is a serious disease. There is no treatment for it. I do not think that our government has made any arrangements for it. Reply of the Health Minister is not based on the complete information. My interest in raising this question is only that we can save our country from this epidemic.

(Shri Arvind Kumar Singh, Shrimati Viplov Thakur, Dr. Vijaylaxmi Sadho, Shri Digvijaya Singh, Shri Alok Tiwari, Shri Pawan kumar Verma, Shri Mohammed Adeeb, Shri K. N. Balagopal and some hon'ble members associated)

10. Incidents of Missing Children Particularly Girls in The Country

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: This is a very serious matter. In our country, every year, one lakh children go missing. What steps are Government taking? The children and the parents are getting worried. Children are taken as beggars and for so many other

reasons. Their lives are totally spoiled. I would like the Government to clearly say as to how they are going to solve this problem in future.

(Shri K.N. Balagopal associated)

GOVERNMENT BILL

The Securities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2014

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said: This Bill seeks to amend identically three pieces of legislation, the SEBI Act, the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act and the Depositories Act. We have created a Designated Court in Mumbai. The SEBI and concerned organisations will require prior consent of those courts. There is a provision to establish several Special Courts. I commend this Bill to the hon. House for its acceptance.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I welcome this Bill and support it wholeheartedly. The UPA Government had proposed three Ordinances. So many people became victims of the Saradha scam. It was realized that we have to have very stringent and strict rules to control all these things This Bill is going to attract the common man. SEBI is not going to keep quiet if anybody follows fraudulent measures. SEBI is supposed to be a watchdog of the capital market. We also welcome that the SEBI Board would be more stringent to control the people who take undue advantage of capital market and cheat the investors' money. The principle of natural justice has been followed by giving an opportunity to the party concerned. I would like the hon. Minister to assure the House as to what safeguards he is going to take to protect the entrepreneurs who are really innocent. We are very much interested to safeguard the investors. we must see to it that there is time-limit. There should be a friendly atmosphere between SEBI and the entrepreneurs. There is a lot of red tapism. I congratulate Mr. Jaitley.

SHRI V.P.SINGH BADNORE: I support the Securities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2014. The SEBI enjoys a very good reputation in the regulators of the world today. The belief of investors in the stock market should be reinforced. This Bill will empower the regulators to search the premises and seize assets. The watchdog now gets more teeth to tackle the menace of ponzi schemes and regulate them by framing regulations. The ambiguities regarding CIS need to be defined so that scepticism is not there. Certain schemes are being floated in rural areas also where gullible people fall for such ponzi schemes. The multi-level marketing is going on in the world. These are also to be looked into. In the world, there is a great debate going on about regulators. The question of giving autonomy to regulators should also be decided well. The insider trading must be contained in India.

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: There are many companies about whom the public has no information. They do their publicity in big cities and attract the poor people. They collect hefty money from the people and run away over night. There should be a stringent law against them. To make the office or court or institution of SEBI at one place, will not be able to prevent the crime throughout the country. What the Government intends to extend it to? Whether they would propose to set up SEBI as an independent monitoring system in the country? What would be structure of the Board, constituted? I would like to know from the Minister, whether there would be a system in the Act to take action against the people who are trying to upset the balance of Indian market by fake currency? I would like to know from the Minister about the comprehensive effect of this Act in the country.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: I support the Bill. This is a three-in-one law. Unfortunately, the SEBI Act was not implemented in the true spirit. Chit funds have grown in this country like mushrooms in the last three or four decades. These unregistered chit funds functioned to maximize profit for themselves, caring nothing for the investors. I would appeal to the Finance Minister to prevent any further mischief and to protect the general investors. By this Act,

SEBI would have powers to call for information from the people or entities associated directly or indirectly with the securities market. The Bill aims at protecting investors and to curb fraudulent investment schemes. Special courts would be established for the prosecution of offences under the Securities law. We would caution the Government not to use its powers to settle any political score. SEBI should proactively try to control such mushroom growth of chit funds. The pluses in this Bill far outweigh the few negatives. We must do all that it takes to stand by the smallest investor.

SHRI K. C. TYAGI: The interests of investors should be protected. I support the Bill for the mention of the nexus between builders and banks. The person to be appointed in SEBI should have quality and respectability also. Officers par excellence should be employed so that another security scam does not take place and investors are taken care of.

SHRI PAUL MANOJ PANDIAN: Special courts in all the places where offences are committed should have the jurisdiction for search and seizure also. The bill provides that the person who has been in practice for not less than 7 years can be appointed. But in the same bill it is provided that the Public Prosecutor should have a practice of 10 years. This contradiction should be resolved. There are similar Acts prevailing in various states. This might lead to clash of jurisdiction between the Centre and State legislations. For serious offences, there should be a negative list which cannot fall under the purview of the consent mechanism. When we share information with other regulators, it must be with the consent of the Central Government.

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: We are against ponzi schemes. We had objected earlier that if you give so much power to one regulator it will be misused. Collective Investment Schemes, having an investment of 100 crore rupees or more should be brought under SEBI. It needs to be clarified whether SEBI has the power to tap phone or not. The law should not be implemented with retrospective effect. It should be implemented from the day it is passed. This is the first country in the world where the regulator is going to have so much

power. Only Mumbai court should not have jurisdiction over collective investment schemes of 100 crore rupees. Giving so much power to SEBI will turn it into a dictator. This bill should have been sent to select committee.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: I support this bill. I hope that this amendment will help to strengthen the regulator, SEBI to go into the details of many of the frauds happening in the country in the name of share market. The arbitrary attitude of the officers conducting investigation may create problem for the company being investigated. Implementation of amendment provision with retrospective effect should be clarified. Companies with collective investment schemes of less than 100 crore rupees should also come under purview of this bill. Besides Mumbai, designated courts for search orders should be established in other states also. The amendment does not have strong provisions for penalties. The fine for insider trading has been reduced. Strong punishment should be there for violaters.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: I support this bill. If SEBI has to reach small investors, it should have jurisdiction wherever there are stock exchanges in the country. The Reserve Bank of India has also suggested that SEBI should be given powers to tackle wilful defaulters. Sincere and needy people are not able to get loans. SEBI should have full bench where majority should have authority. It should not have arbitrary power.

SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: I rise to support the Securities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2014. I congratulate the Government that it has come forward with the Bill. The Finance Minister had said that he did not believe in retrospective enforcement of Acts. But here you are enforcing this Bill retrospectively. There is a contradiction in the statement. When we are empowering Special Courts with powers to search and issue a warrant, where is the question of jurisdiction? Obviously the entire country comes under the jurisdiction of this Special Court. After taking expert opinion, the Bill now seems perfect as it is strengthening the SEBI. I congratulate the Government for bringing it at the right time.

DR. ASHOK. S. GANGULY: I rise to support the Bill. Despite having good features the Securities Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2013 got lapsed. SEBI was given the authority to ensure that news should not leak out. We need to think more on how we are going to protect the news. The 2014 Bill authorizes SEBI to enhance penalties imposed by an adjudicating officer. We need to consider whether SEBI has enough resources to carry out the enormous task handed over to it. Why aren't willful defaulters being dealt with more stringently? Ponzi schemes are being used to launder black money.

PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: Over the last few years, the SEBI has been able to crack down on a number of chit fund and ponzi scheme scams. The SEBI has long been requesting sweeping powers and the UPA's ordinances and this Bill are the first major steps for plugging these regulatory gaps. The SEBI has probed many companies for violating collective investment schemes. These collective Investment schemes are often illegal, unregulated and ponzi schemes. As a result of SEBI's activism many companies had to wind up their businesses and investors' money could be returned. SEBI has been empowered to enforce court orders through attaching the violator's property, freezing bank accounts, through the arrest and detention of the violator. Such kind of powers is absolutely necessary. In order to ensure speedy trials and justice, the NDA government has retained the provisions of the Bill. Delay in justice only emboldens offenders. In order to ensure that white-collar criminals do not get away, we need to set up Special Courts across the country. According to a report investor population has dwindled significantly in the last 25 years. Primary market and mutual funds have lost their sheen. For want of better investment options, people are feeling tempted to park their money in chit fund and ponzi schemes. A more effective SEBI can infuse confidence into potential Indian and foreign investors and get the country huge financial resources. Numerous promoters have defrauded public sector banks and have escaped without prosecution. SEBI needs to go after such offenders. Many foreign equity firms have been cheated by promoters who have run away with their money. This problem needs to be addressed. I would like to point out that public accountability over SEBI needs to be strengthened. The gaps in

SEBI's institutional structure is sought to be exploited by entrepreneurial firms who offer to shop between various regulatory forums. The funds which have been collected from ponzi scheme scamsters must not remain with the Government, but should be used for the education of the Poor. SEBI's mandate should be extended to include financial inclusion.

SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Various scams over the last few years have shaken the confidence of investors and consumers in many areas. This Bill to strengthen SEBI is welcome. The issue of accountability is important before we discuss powers that are to be granted to regulators. The stock market is being used to launder money. There have been many instances where investment schemes have managed investment funds or depositors' fund without the supervision of SEBI or any other regulator. That's why we need to strengthen SEBI. There is also an issue of the new definition of 'CIS'. Will it cover normal FMCG companies?

This Bill provides a safeguard in terms of search and seizure by making a magistrate's approval required. That principle should also apply for attachment. Since there is a special court, it may be a good idea to amend that clause to ensure that attachment is also sought after a magistrate's approval. I think, the penalties are not punitive enough, and I propose that it should be raised from Rs.one lakh and one crore to Rs.five lakh and five crores. Regulators like SEBI are being granted increasing powers by Parliament assuming that these powers would be exercised in the interest of investors and the economy. But there will always be a temptation to misuse this power. Therefore, I am suggesting to have a new clause that ensures that all consent agreements and cases are transparently disclosed on the SEBI website. This must be made legal and binding on SEBI. I hope these amendments would be considered by the Government to make the Bill and SEBI more effective and more accountable.

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: This Bill has been brought three times earlier also through ordinance. Collective investment scheme, which is Section 11AA, was added to this Act in 1999, but only one company has registered itself therein after 1999. Through

this amendment Bill, the power the review the order of SAT has been given to SEBI. This will act as a good mechanism to bring transparency in the market, take immediate action and to address the complaints of the people. It is a very good provision made in the Bill that the power to search and seizure has been given to the magistrate of the designated court of SEBI. Another important provision is the provision to receive information and record. The power given to SEBI to receive the institutional information and to share the information will strengthen this Bill in the future. Savings money is not diverted and it flows into the market, a good investment atmosphere is created in the country by protecting this money, SEBI is given the opportunity to function in more transparent manner in order to receive information and search, the order of SAT is reviewed at the right time, efforts have been made to include all these matters in this Bill. The provision of a regulatory body, SEBI, has been made to ensure that the regulatory system works efficiently in the market, the interests of the investors are kept in mind, transparency and accountability in the market. The kind of obligations SEBI was having in provisions with regard to search and seizure, collective investment scheme, the efforts have been made to remove these obligations. I support this Bill and hope that through this Bill the investors and the market will be strengthened and we will be able to do justice with our investors in a transparent manner.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: The securities markets play a crucial role in the economic and financial stability of a nation. The more efficient the market, the more healthy and prosperous is the economy. The problem is that the investigative and the prosecution process takes too much time in our country. I would urge to provide rules that explicitly provide the first right to disburse funds to those who suffer wrongful losses due to the unfair actions of the cheats. Small investors, especially those living in remote areas are cheated by some people and, their numbers are increasing because the punishment is not meted out expeditiously. I suggest to create a new investor-protection service on the lines of the IPS or the Customs Service or the IRS. Invest heavily in the judicial infrastructure, including enacting fresh laws which will not allow smart and

expensive lawyers to prolong cases infinitely and allow the rich to get away. We should have an effective Parliamentary control over the SEBI. Irrespective of the name, reputation, position or stature of a crook, every fraudster should be treated equally before the law. Go after the crooks who looted our nationalized banks, especially in the last ten years, who cornered scarce national resources including spectrum, who created companies in the Stock Exchange which vanished with the promoters, and who have cheated the small investors through ponzi schemes. If you bring even 50 per cent of them to book expeditiously, I am sure economic crimes would decrease in the country.

SHRI ANIL DESAI: This Bill takes certain steps to ensure not only the support but it also takes into account the interest of the middle class, especially the lower middle class. To protect investors' interest and ensure orderly development of security markets, it is necessary to enhance the powers of SEBI which is the capital market regulator. The Bill considers widening the scope to include all pooling of funds of Rs.100 crore or above. The Bill also empowers the Chairman of the SEBI to authorize search and seizure of documents relevant to an investigation. The Bill establishes special courts to try offences under the Act. In our country, a series of frauds are committed by chit funds, cheating millions of poor people. They will smartly keep their turnover within Rs.100 crores. There should be some regulatory body to take care of this. The effectiveness of any legislation would depend on how implementation of the same would be there. As far as this new law is concerned, its effectiveness would depend on the powers which are given to the SEBI Chairman. Similar law is prevailing in the State of Maharashtra. So, in the case of multiplicity of laws, if any conflicting things come, which law would prevail? That also needs to be made clear.

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: These amendments would give the market regulator legal backing to clamp down on unscrupulous entities that are using new methods to take investors for a ride. I don't know whether SEBI will be able to do much with its new powers. For this, SEBI's staff pattern needs to be dramatically changed. It will

have to open more offices across the country to make the new powers operational. Then only can this Act be implemented effectively. Recently, the SEBI has given an instruction that all the listed companies, including public and private sector companies, must give 25 per cent of their shares to public. Disinvestment is a policy matter. How can SEBI insist on giving 25 per cent of the shares of the public sector companies for disinvestment? This needs to be looked into.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: The amendment to Section 11 of the Act empowers SEBI to call for information and records from any person, including any bank, authority, board or corporation which, in the opinion of the Board, shall be relevant to any investigation or inquiry by the Board in respect of any transaction in securities. It should be ensured that SEBI does not transgress its powers. New Sections in the Bill deal with the establishment of Special Courts, Establishment of Special Courts with the sole purpose of providing a speedy relief to the affected investors is a good initiative. But care should be taken that the investors do not get into any legal tangle while trying to get back their hard-earned money. Various schemes with tall and high claims and scams cheated the common man all over the nation. We have made a new beginning. I hope this initiative will go a long way in preventing the common man from being cheated. I would also request to provide for a special provision in this Bill stating that when a public sector undertaking is being sold, the Central Trade Union must also be consulted.

The Honble Minister, replying to the debate, said: This Bill was first brought in by an Ordinance on the 18th of July, 2013, and in order to maintain the continuity some of the provisions relate back to the date, on which the Ordinance came in. We have been exchanging information with United States since March, 1998. So, this is in order to validate the sharing of information between the SEBI and the equivalent authority in the United States. Section 11AA deals with collective investment schemes. Now this mentions that any scheme or arrangement which satisfies the conditions referred to in sub-section (2) shall be a collective investment scheme. In sub-section (2), there are four sub-parts and

each of the four sub-parts relates to some element of contribution. Scheme would be framed in a manner which would bypass each of the four conditions and then say, no law is applicable to us. The State legislations would apply to the chit funds. These schemes would not be a chit fund.

Conditions mentioned in sub-section (2), there is no requirement of Rs.100 crore. So, even if it was Rs.5 crore or Rs.10 crore scheme, it would come under Section 11AA (2). This non-obstante clause proviso has been added below Section 11AA(2). This would be an exception to the above four and this reads, "Provided that any pooling of funds under any scheme or arrangement, which is not registered with the Board or is not covered under sub-section (3), involving a corpus amount of one hundred crore rupees or more shall be deemed to be a collective investment scheme." Deemed to be' is a legal fiction. So, it is a very wide definition which would almost include everything which is not covered under the first four. What if some people pool their resources? The Act takes care of this situation. So, what will not come under the definition of 'collective investment scheme', is also clarified under sub-section (3). So, the Act now has been fine tuned but the exception as to what is not a collective investment scheme will also continue to operate.

A company has two modes for raising deposits and SEBI act not applies here. Therefore, what comes under the Companies Act will be excluded from the SEBI Act altogether. Large number of people may get cheated and the company will make profits out of it. No one can benefit out of a crime. In this case, if it is a fraud in the name of a Collective Investment Scheme, the person, earning out of that fraud, cannot be allowed to retain the profits of fraud. Section 11B has the power to issue directions and with that power of direction, the money is collected and goes into Investor Protection and Education Fund. It is also protection. Such amount shall be utilised by the Board in accordance with the regulations made under this Act. So, there is already a scheme that when monies come into this particular fund, monies will be used for restitution to the investors who have been cheated by the Collective Investment Scheme.

Under this law, there is absolutely no power to tap telephones. So, in the process to call for information, it may extend to calling for the CDR records. There is no overlapping jurisdiction. SARFAESI Act operates in an entirely different area. That has nothing to do with the deposits. This amendment has nothing to do with all PSUs to divest 25 per cent. But if a PSU is listed company then it will have to follow guidelines issued by the SEBI from time to time. The provision of 25 per cent shareholding of a listed company must be divested refers to normal companies. When the rules under these amendments are worked out then we will certainly go into suggestion made and amendment suggested.

The headquarters of SEBI is in Mumbai. Therefore, SEBI under this amendment will have a designated court in Mumbai. If it wants to search 30 premises, it will have to show to some judge that it has prima facie material to suspect that there is a violation. If the magistrate concerned is satisfied, it can permit SEBI to search it. It was a via media we worked out between giving an arbitrary power to SEBI and a provision under which SEBI has to go to thirty courts. SEBI is a regulator as far as the securities market is concerned. In case of an unfair order or misuse of power SEBI, the Securities Appellate Tribunal has been created headed by a retired Judge. Further petitions against SAT may go to the Government itself. There are certain multi-level marketing schemes which are actually as shaped marketing schemes, but effectively become collective schemes. Some of those schemes could be covered. The Stock Exchange market itself has changed. This is not confined to a particular city. The nature of Stock Exchanges' functioning is today entirely on the computer. Penalties under all these Acts are fixed keeping the extent of the offence in mind.

The motion for consideration of the Bill, was adopted.

Clauses etc., as amended, were adopted.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

Discussion on the Working of the Ministry of Women and Child Development

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA, initiating the discussion, said: We worship women as a goddess and believe that children are the image of god. Seventy per cent population of the country is women and children. Women have brought lots of social changes in the country and came forward to spread knowledge in the society. They have given their contribution in every field and proved that they are not lesser than men. The people with male dominating mentality and other are trying hard to stop them from moving ahead. It is a matter of regret that they are not feeling safe themselves in every state. There are lots of laws for women and children but we have to see that what we are doing for women today. Government has increased only Rs. 400 crores in the budget for women and children and it is very low. It is the lowest increase in comparison of the increases made in the past few years. Government should take care of this. Government should clarify why it has been done? Government have not brought any new scheme for them. There is a need to focus on the issue of bringing new schemes. One Stop Crisis Centre should be established in the entire country. Maximum atrocities are being done with the women of SC and ST Category. Single woman widows are also facing lots of problems. They are the victim of harassment. Special attention should be given to them. Government have not made any special provision for differently abled women and children. Special provision in a planned way should be made for the women of minority community. Rehabilitation centres should be setup for the women involved in trafficking and for the migrant women.

Working women are facing maximum problems as they have to bear harassment. Government have constituted In-House Committees but these committees are not successful in the situation where the management itself involved in the harassment. Government have to find out some other way. Government provide legal aid to the poor but what has been done for the women? Government should provide legal aid to women and a legislation especially for women

should be brought in this regard. Special attention should be given to the domestic woman servants and slum dwellers.

Several special schools for the poor girls were set up in Uttar Pradesh during the BSP regime. Separate hostels were also set up for them so that they can prepare for competitions. These schemes had been very fruitful in Uttar Pradesh and the Central Government should also implement them throughout the country, so that the girls could become self reliant. But unfortunately, these schemes have been discontinued in Uttar Pradesh by the present Government.

With the passing of time, our society has also changed. Now a day, whenever a girl goes out of the house, the parents are always concerned about her safety. In today's TV serials, the women are being depicted wrongly. It is being shown as if they are spoiling the society. The mind of the children, who are still immature, is also influenced by these serials. They assume that everything, being shown in these serials, is true and quite a normal thing and they should also follow it. The Government should put a check on such serials. Obscene scenes or posters should not be allowed by the Government. The cases of atrocities against women and children are also on rise, not only in Uttar Pradesh but all over the country. The girls are feeling unsafe. There are so many laws but these laws are needed to be implemented forcefully. *(Speech unfinished)*

Discussion not concluded.

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