

## **RAJYA SABHA**

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### **\*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

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

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**Monday, December 08, 2014/ Agrahayana 17, 1936 (Saka)**

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#### **Welcome to Parliamentary Delegation from Romania**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon. Members, we have with us seated in the Special Box, Members of a Parliamentary Delegation from Romania, currently on a visit to our country under the distinguished leadership of His Excellency Mr. Veleriu Stefan Zgonea, President of the Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Romania.

On behalf of the Members of the House and my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending our hearty welcome to the leader and other members of the delegation and wish our distinguished guests an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during the stay here, they would be able to see and learn more about our parliamentary system, our country and our people and that their visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between India and Romania. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Parliament and the friendly people of Romania.

#### **Observation by the Chair**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon. Members, I wish to say:-  
"This House, while acknowledging the statement of Prime Minister made in this House on the 4th of December, appeals to all Members of

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

the Parliament, Ministers and leaders of all political parties to maintain civility at all costs in public discourse for the successful functioning of parliamentary democracy and to uphold our commitment to constitutional values."

### **Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2014-15**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE ( SHRI JAYANT SINHA):** I lay on the table a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General ), for the year 2014-15 (December, 2014).

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### **GOVERNMENT BILLS**

#### **The Protection and Utilisation of Public Funded Intellectual Property Bill, 2008**

*The Bill was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.*

#### **The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000**

*The Bill was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.*

#### **The Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Laws (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2014**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR), moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said:** The Bill further to amend the Sick Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Act, 1974 and the Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Act, 1995, in order to continue with the lease-hold rights vested in the National Textile

Corporation on Completion of the lease-hold tenure, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

NTC is a premier institution and today its situation is worsening continuously. The Central Government had acquired these mills through law in order to protect the interests of workers and textile industry. These mills were managed by NTC. The present amendment in the NTC Act was considered necessary to remove some legal flaws in the Central laws regarding the management of sick textile mills especially the land on lease hold under private owners of sick mills. Under the existing provision of NTC Act, the assets of sick textile mills are now completely under Government of India and its management will be handed over to NTC immediately after this.

Due to some flaw in the law, the original leaseholders are taking over this property by appealing in the court while actually this land is being governed by the Government of India and NTC. Therefore, such an ordinance has become a necessity. Also, time has come when the opinion of the people about NTC should be changed as it is no more a sick mill. Today there is a need to create employment opportunities in the country wherein NTC will contribute. I request the House you to co-operate in passing this Bill.

**SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU:** This Bill is an improvement of the 1995 Act. The present Government has also brought out an Ordinance and that Ordinance will be replaced by this Bill. In 1887, we had the first textile mill of the nation. As the textile mills came to a standstill with the sight of land mafia, real estate and the builders' group concentrating on to the prime pieces of the land of National Textiles Corporation across Bombay, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Kanpur and even in Warangal, the erstwhile Nizam State established the Azamzahi Mills at Warangal. The Governments of those times did not show the requisite concentration to protect the mills and their properties all across the nation. With this, a greater social trauma has developed. Being a son of the textile worker of Bombay, I do have the agony-filled memories of subsequent 1982 agitations. This was happening in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Telangana

besides Gujarat. This tragedy has alerted our UPA Government. We were trying to take the protective measures and precautions. This Bill is part of that effort of UPA Government. We evolved holistic approach to protect the whole of the textile and its dependent industry throughout the nation. In the last two Budgets of UPA Government, we evolved separate policy towards power loom industry to cater to its energy, raw material needs and marketing needs we provided a credit facility with lesser interest rate, not only to the handloom weavers but also to the power loom sector. At the same time, we made efforts to protect the interests of spinning sector and the interests of cotton growers.

There are suicides across the cotton growing fields throughout the nation. Even after the persistent and vehement demand, the present Government is gracious enough to raise only Rs. 50/- towards the MSP of cotton. Cotton farmers are in lot of distress. The spinning sector is facing a big challenge. Handloom weaving sector is also facing problems. Textile mill workers are having arduous life. There is every necessity to protect National Textile Corporation. There is every necessity to revive it. I support the Bill for enactment.

**SHRI V. P. SINGH BADNORE:** I support this Bill. There are 119 NTC owned mills but only 28 of them are still surviving under NTC. Please see the problems of the NTC mills and why they are not functioning. Automation is required a lot in this industry. We have to take care of the employees and the labourers who have spent their life in it. As far as this Bill is concerned, it is in the right direction. Please ensure that the owners do not get hold of those very, very expensive pieces of land. The land belongs to Government and NTC and it cannot be taken away. There are other things also which the NTC must look into. There is a severe competition, not only in India, but abroad also. We have to survive the competition. The biggest competition is from China. You have to see what new things we can do to put India back into competition, which is there.

**CHAUDHARY MUNAVVER SALEEM:** The Bill is very good. 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the population of India lives in Uttar Pradesh. Workers of Uttar Pradesh should get employment. Textile sector provides employment to 3.5 crores of people. This is the second largest sector after agriculture which provides employment. India is the second largest country of the world to produce cotton. That which has harmed our textile industry most has not got a mention in the Bill. Chinese thread has harmed it most. If our textile industry is based on the principles of Swadeshi, it will provide employment to our workers, our farmers and economic condition of India would be strengthened. I conclude with the hope that minister will pay heed on my advice.

**SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY:** When Anti-Partition Movement started in Bengal 110 years back, three things came to fore at that time. Of this, one was 'Swadeshi'. Being inspired from the spirit of 'Swadeshi', cotton and other mills were set up at a number of places in Hindustan. The annual report of NTC (National Textile Corporation) for 2013-14 discloses that 103 NTC mills are closed down and only 23 mills are running. NTC has so far closed 78 mills and has reduced the manpower from 90,000 to 8,214 employees.

About 82,000 labourers have been rendered jobless. The situation is that everybody's eye is on land. The land sharks are roaming around in the corridors of power every time to have access to Government land at a throw-away price. The new Government should not play the role of a saleable Government. There were serious objections from different States against the sale of NTC land. Even after an attempt on the part of the Government to revive the sick textile units, if the purpose has been frustrated and it cannot go ahead with the manufacturing or production of textile in the units, in that event the land must go back to the States because after all it is the property of the State and the Central Government cannot encroach upon the assets of the State Governments. It will be against the principle of our federal character. I would appeal to the hon. Minister

to consider the amendments and if an assurance comes from the Minister that the interest of the States will be protected in the Rules, then certainly I will withdraw the amendments.

**SHRI SHARAD YADAV:** I rise to support this Bill. I want to give a suggestion that at any cost this land should be under the possession of the Government of India. Since thousands of years, this land belonged to the farmers and craftsmen. Expansion should be there, we cannot restrict the market. But, the power, the capital, the skill which you have should definitely be saved. The people of this country did not require to go to the market. All their needs were met there itself. There was such a large textile industry in India that India used to export to half of Europe and all the gulf countries. We had skill in our hands. We did not use that. Do not sell the land like this. Use this land for the craftsmanship of India because it has employment opportunities. Establish a destination for the unemployed and ruined craftsmen. This land is a property of the country. We should guard this land. It should be used to keep alive the thousands of years old tradition of India. Give the entire land for setting up of Haat and save the craftsmen of India. Bring a new Bill and give this land for Haat, otherwise its purpose will not be served.

**SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:** In 1974, at the height of recession found in the textile sector, many textile mills in the private sector were facing closure. In order to revive the sick mills and to help the working class and to save the mills in the private sector, the Union Government stepped in. The National Textile Corporation (NTC) was established to take over such textile mills in order to maintain the production and productivity level. Now this Bill seeks to vest with the Union Government's PSU, the NTC, all the land that was with those mills at the time of its being taken over by the NTC under Central Ordinance. The hon. Minister should take steps to revive all the sick mills in the State of Tamil Nadu by allotting sufficient funds for modernization and expansion of these mills. Unless the workers are enthused with permanent positions and with better service conditions, we may not be able to improve the productivity of every worker which is the mainstay for running a textile mill. The Government should

bring forth a package to increase the production in these areas by way of extending subsidies and financial assistance to the needy units so that job opportunities and production increase positively. We need to modernise all the NTC Mills spread across the country to give them a competitive edge. I would request the hon. Minister to approve the proposals sent by the Government of Tamil Nadu for the setting up of the Textile Apparel Parks in many parts of Tamil Nadu, including one at the Tiruchirapally District.

**SHRI SALIM ANSARI:** Both the Acts of 1974 and 1975 were very weak. Due to these Acts being weak, some of the mill owners went to the Supreme Court and in 2011, the Supreme Court gave a decision to hand them over the land for mills. In India, the topmost industry is agriculture and on the second number, textile industry gives the maximum employment. Our labourers, weavers were engaged in this trade on a large scale. All the mills have closed one by one due to the ignorance of the Government. Today, large number of craftsman, labourer and weavers have been rendered unemployed. Due to closure of these mills labourers are on the verge of starvation. The cost of the land of those have increased to such an extent that all the land mafia and brokers are looking to grab this land. You had revived 23 mills out of the 78 mills of NTC. You closed them in 2013 due to the reason that these are suffering losses. Think about the lakhs of labourers working in those mills. Their families are on the verge of starvation. Japan and China are dominating the world market by manufacturing of cloths. There was a time when Indian cloth was sold in several countries of the world. The weavers, the labourer class here was happy and large number of people got employment. I request to the Government that training centres should be established for illiterate weavers so that these poor people may compete in this world.

**DR. T. N. SEEMA:** Since the content and intent of this Bill has nothing objectionable so CPI(M) supports this Bill. Developers and real estate people are eyeing on the prime land. So, NTC needs to be very cautious in the dealings of land and should strictly ensure that

no fraud will be played. NTC has been implementing the BIFT-approved revival scheme from 2002. The fund for modernization was mobilized by selling the assets or land of sick mills which are already closed down. But the main thrust of modernization was to reduce the number of workers. That means, a large share of funds meant for modernization has gone to the modified VRS scheme. Thus the modernization process by NTC has become a job killing process. This modernization process should be a process of expanding the capacity of NTC. The per capital cloth available in our country is one of the lowest as compared to the global standard. It is a shameful situation. NTC should take the responsibility to provide best-quality textile products at affordable prices to common people. What is the status of that joint venture between NTC and NHDC? What are the plans to make NTC a more efficient player in the Indian and international markets? Has NTC done any analysis of the condition of the mills which were included in the revival project? Modernisation programme in NTC should be on continuous basis to meet out the market challenges by ensuring quality product for both local and international markets.

The textile industry itself is ailing due to current trend of high raw-material cost and considerably low price for finished products. The economic policy of the Government is not protecting domestic producers or farmers. So, if the Government sincerely wants to make textile sector to grow, take necessary measure to strengthen the domestic producers starting from cotton and jute farmers, expand the modernisation process and intervene in the market.

**SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO:** The purpose of this amendment is to plug the loopholes in the existing law and nationalisation of the textile undertakings. Thousands of workers have become unemployed due to closure of NTC mills. What are Government's plans for these unemployed workers? What is the status of unspent amount of thousands of crores of rupees of NTC? NTC is adopting the same policy what was being adopted by the pervious mill owners. NTC is having a large amount of land under its control. NTC is selling this

land. Whether by selling the land, textile mills will become operational? Whether Government have made any blue-print for textile mills? How these jobless workers will be reinstated by the Government?

**SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI:** I support the Bill. The Government had taken a decision to nationalize 119 mills not only to protect the workers but also to give a fillip to cotton and cotton-made cloth. Setting up of an Apparel Textile Park in place of Azam Jahi Mills to protect the weavers should be looked into. I request the hon. Minister to direct the officials concerned in the Ministry to coordinate with Telangana Government and see to it that the Textile Park becomes a reality for the people of Warangal and Telangana region. I request the Hon'ble Minister to release money immediately which will help to increase the looms capacity to 2,000 at Bhudan Pochampalli and bring light in the lives of weavers. A proposal has been submitted for setting up a Composite Cotton Textile Mill by NTC in Warangal district. The Government of Telangana is willing to provide necessary land free of cost for this. So, I request the hon. Minister to place this before the Board of NTC for its approval.

NTC has more than Rs. 6,500 crores. NTC on modernisation and revival has been spent only Rs. 1,300 crores so far. So, I would like the hon. Minister to give us the details of amount spent on VRS, modernisation of each mill and the status of mills that are modernized. The NTC does not have the regular CMD. So, I request the hon. Minister to immediately take steps for appointment of a regular CMD for the NTC.

**DR. ASHOK S. GANGULY:** I want to know from the hon. Minister that how many textile workers, who were rendered redundant and destitute belonging to the Konkan region, have been compensated. How many mill-owners, who lead a five-star life in that city, have been declared wilful defaulters? What has been the history of the NTC in reviving, improving profitability and generating employment in the mills that are put in their charge? What the Government proposes to

do with the nationalized lands because land is gold in Mumbai, and there is a nexus between land-owners and builders. Therefore, just by bringing in this amendment, the victims would not be compensated, and arbitration remains in the hands of an incompetent intermediary.

**SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPARTA:** When nationalisation was done, the corruption due to which these textile mills had been made sick, was not gone into. Those people made their textile mills sick, minted money, got out and the Government took over. NTC has taken over only one mill in Odisha. They bought second hand machinery, passing it off as new machinery and everybody colluded in that corruption. The NTC modernise half-heartedly. When Government take land for any industry free of cost or at a subsidised rate then Government take larger amount of land than what is necessary and later on Government sell off those lands at very high prices. What for? Government take land from the State Governments, call it surplus land, sell it off to make up the budgetary deficit of the Central Government. This is my appeal, to all my friends here to press upon the Central Government to stop playing this game. The Government must take it from any industry, for any requirement, at market rate. The Textile Minister must now think of, his own programme of integrated textile park.

**SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:** Unfortunately, for the last few decades, we have been witnessing that all these textile industries, were practically being controlled by some retired IAS officers or the retired State Service officers. These people had no commitment for the industry. They had only the sole intention to somehow squeeze money out of them and leave that place. We have several times asked to bring in the technocrats. But, unfortunately, that did not happen. What kind of diversification does he want to introduce? We are facing a serious challenge from China and other countries. So, I feel that the Government should think about this very seriously. I do not know how the hon. Minister of Textiles will combat with the synthetic stuff lobby and protect our cotton textile industry. It is really unfortunate

that we are not giving proper attention to this industry. Many mills have been closed. No worker is working there. I urge upon the hon. Minister to collect the names of the workers who were displaced and who are now jobless. I would like to ask the Minister how and when he is going to protect the land. How will it be utilized? Sick Industrial Companies Act, 1985 has also to be amended otherwise it will be very difficult to protect new model mills. I would urge upon him to look into this matter so that other textile units are also taken up.

**SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL:** I support this bill. Concrete steps have not been taken to save this industry till now. After agriculture it is the second largest employment generating industry but nobody is bothering about it. Had it been brought earlier then the situation perhaps would be different. The workers of closed mills are starving. Today there is a problem of lease. No arrangement has been made to extend the period of lease. This would have been done very early. I want to thank the Hon'ble minister for bringing this amendment bill. Land of the closed mills should be used for the upliftment of our workers who have rendered jobless due to closure of the textile mills all over the country.

**DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM:** I welcome and support this Bill. Through this, Government has accorded some status to National Textile Corporation. I think out of 104 mills, only twenty seven mills are running now. This amendment should be helpful for the textile industry. The compensation being given under Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme is not enough and it should be doubled. Before declaring any industry sick, it is imperative on the part of the Government to take care of the interests of the labourers. If they are thrown out, their entire family comes to the street. I believe that our Minister and our Prime Minister will take care of the labour issues.

**SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:** My party is supporting this bill so I am also supporting this bill. Proper modernisation of NTC has not taken place due to several reasons. There is a need to take care of overall textile sector and to strengthen the NTC. Whenever a unit is facing closure the families of the workers suffer a lot. I urge upon the Government not to foreclose the textile units as well as the NTC. The Government should grant them lease if demanded. The pilferage etc. in these units must be stopped so that these units can earn maximum profit and at the same time the workers can get their livelihood.

In case a unit is being closed down, the balance amount of the workers should be released immediately. The maximum employment should be provided in the silk and handloom sector. Before export of textile it should be ensured that the demands of the people of this country are being met first. For this we have to increase the purchasing capacity of the people. The Government should support the NREGS for this purpose. It would also strengthen our economy.

**SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:** I support the Bill. When the textile mills were nationalized, their main aim was to retain the workers. But in the name of VRS the government is throwing out the workers. The Government have mobilized the money by selling the prime land in cities like Mumbai to the real estate businessmen, and throw away the workers. So, my request to the hon. Minister is, when you take over the land, when you sell the land, it must be for modernization. In the name of revival of units under PPP model the real estate businessmen are grabbing the prime land of these units. I request the Minister to take a holistic and comprehensive view and make a comprehensive programme for the revival of the textile sector and the handloom industry of our country.

**The Hon. Minister, replying to the debate, said:** I am happy to note that our suggestion has been supported by all the members. We are not responsible for whatever has happened to NTC. To save the property inherited by the Government bringing in an ordinance had

become inevitable. This Government has no intention to sell out these mills. At present 23 mills are in operation. Five mills operating in Joint Venture are earning profit but eleven mills have become disputed and are under the arbitration. Five mills being operated by NTC are earning profit as on date. We propose that at least six more mills may become profitable in the coming three months.

A modernisation scheme has been formulated by the NTC and it has been sanctioned by the BIFR. We have achieved the 50 percent level of modernisation and the rest is yet to be achieved. We have given the attractive retirement benefits to the workers. We are not interested in taking away the jobs of the workers. We have just uploaded our textile policy on the net. We intend to formulate an attractive textile policy with the suggestions of the public at the earliest. We have established a Skill Development Centre in Varanasi. It has been decided to establish incubation centre in rural as well as urban sectors. Designing Studios would also be set up in the textile sector.

One month back we have announced the setting up of 13 textile parks. 15 more parks will be announced in the coming days. We have decided that one such park would certainly be set up in the North Eastern States. I am agreeing with the several suggestions given by the members and my Ministry would certainly consider the valuable suggestions. We have opened ours outlets at the places where cotton is cultivated. Five mills are in profit. We are trying that the maximum sick NTC mills should be revived.

*The motion for consideration of the Bill, was adopted.*

*Clauses etc., were adopted.*

*The Bill was passed.*

**The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill,  
2014**

**THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT), moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said:** We received 12 amendments from Kerala, M.P., Odisha, Tripura and Sikkim regarding SCs living there. Lok Sabha has approved it. It includes certain synonymous communities in respect of entries in the list of Scheduled Castes for these States. 'Majhi' Caste has been omitted.

**SHRI P. L. PUNIA, making his maiden speech, said:** This Bill is related to five States. It was felt that some castes have been missed in original list. Time to time it got amended. It is very important because after inclusion in this list separate facilities are provided. Several castes put demand that they should also be included in the Scheduled Caste. A Looker Committee was constituted. The Government of India prescribed parameters in this regard. That is why several proposals from State Government are not approved. I would like to suggest that the State Governments should be provided detailed information of parameters.

A caste is in Scheduled Caste in one State, at the same time, it is in backward class in other State. It creates confusion. A special care should be taken in this regard. The Central Government has prescribed a procedure that a proposal from State Government is mandatory for deletion or inclusion in the list. But there are several such proposals which are in process. I request that they should also be approved after quick Scrutiny Reservation percentage also be increased as per the Scheduled Caste percentage. It should also be mentioned as to what special scheme would be made to remove social and economic inequality. Special Component Plan Act should be enacted. Long pending ordinance should be made an act at the earliest. The backlog of the vacancies should be filled. Act should be made regarding reservation in the Government jobs at the earliest. Government jobs are shrinking. Most of the opportunity for jobs are available in private

sector. In private sector there is no reservation. There must be reservation in judiciary also. I support the Bill.

**SHRI TARUN VIJAY:** I support the Bill. By changing few words in the name of caste, they are being included so that they be benefited. Doctrinal untouchability is there in politics also. Upper Castes are in superiority complex. Those who considered themselves as upper castes, in fact they are real lower castes. There is no sin other than untouchability. In IITs the number of Dalits are decreasing day by day. If we are unable to wipe out segregation on the basis of castes, our all wisdom is a waste.

**SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:** In this Bill synonyms of a number of castes have been included. An agency of the Government of India has submitted its report by conducting a survey but the Government has not yet done anything. I have purposed an amendment to include many subcastes. The subcastes of Mallah should be included in the Scheduled Castes List. The BJP people should appoint pujaris in Mandirs from Nishad Community.

**SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY:** I rise to support the Bill. Persons belonging to the scheduled castes have been victims of exploitation for generations. What is required is a major plan for their comprehensive social, economic and educational rehabilitation. There is no overall planning taking into consideration the history and the ground realities of socio-economic and educational situation of these people.

**DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:** From Bihar, a recommendations had already been sent to include a number of castes in the list of SCs/STs. But these castes have not yet been included in the SCs/STs list. These castes are living at its bottom line. Those who have already got the benefit of reservation must be debarred. I demand for reservation in Judiciary also.

**SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN:** The Bill seeks to include some communities in the list of Scheduled Castes and remove a community from the list which belongs to the State of Sikkim. The Madras Census 1901 states that the Badaga community in the Nilgiris district of Tamil Nadu is a tribe. I would also like to raise my voice for the Dalit Christian. I urge upon the Government to immediately include the Badagas and Dalit Christians in the Scheduled Castes list.

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

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