

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, May 06, 2015/ Vaisakha 16, 1937 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Contradictory Statements on the Location of Dawood Ibrahim

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): After investigations, Government came to the conclusion that Dawood Ibrahim was responsible for Mumbai bomb blast and there are many cases registered against him in Mumbai and other parts of the country. It has been found that he has connections with Pakistan and they know his whereabouts. Government of India has been asking the Government of Pakistan to handover him to Government of India so that action could be taken against him. It has been said in the other House that Government did not know anything about location of Dawood Ibrahim. It is highly regrettable and it has caused damage to the image of entire India at National and International level. It should be clarified in both the Houses and a statement should be made by the hon. Home Minister.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Government should come and clarify the situation here. This a very serious matter.

(Several Hon 'ble Members associated.)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): I will ask the hon. Home Minister to come and clarify the situation in the House. It is the clear opinion of our Government that Dawood Ibrahim is a terrorist and a culprit of the India and people of India.

2. Taking Over of the Management of the Lalit Kala Academy by the Government

SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Lalit Kala Academy is an autonomous institution under Ministry of Culture. But it a matter of concern that last month Government had taken this institution unconstitutionally under her charge and removed its Chairman Dr. Kalyan Kumar Chakravorty. There was no case of any financial irregularity or corruption against him. There is a case of corruption against its present Secretary. The Director General of National Museum has also been removed.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: It is a serious matter. All the institutions in the entire country cannot be politicized.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: I am appealing to the Government to have a proper enquiry into it and have the taken.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: It is a serious matter and the Government should make a statement in this regard.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: It is a serious matter and Government should take the matter into cognizance.

(Several Hon'ble Members associated.)

3. Need to take Measures for Maintaining National Unity and Integration

Dr. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: We should fulfil the commitment towards the Constitution of India. We should ensure that justice, independence and fraternity are available to all the citizens. We should take every measure to maintain the sovereignty and

integrity of India. Whatever is written in Constitution should be adopted and enacted.

(Several Hon 'ble Members associated.)

4. Need to recognize Women Farmers as Equal Wage Earners and Organize Them at National Level

SHRI TARUN VJAY: Women are engaged in more than 66 percent agriculture. But women are getting lesser wages in comparison to the male farmers and they are subjected to discrimination. I appeal the Government to constitute an Agro Commission for Women Farmers and fix wages for them and recognise them as an independent farmer. An Agro Women Bank should also be established for women farmers.

(Several Hon 'ble Members associated.)

5. Suicide by Potato Farmers in West Bengal

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Since 4th of March, 2015, twenty-five potato farmers have committed suicide in different districts of West Bengal. For crop insurance, the Government is supposed to pay Rs.49 crores as premium. But that is not being paid since 2011. The 5 per cent reservation in cold storages in Bengal has also been done away with. The regime is doing its best to suppress all truth. We want a fact finding team to go there.

(Shri Tapan Kumar Sen, Shri K.N. Balagopal and Shri K.K. Ragesh associated.)

6. Need to reimburse the Money to the Tamil Nadu Government on Account of Admission of Students of Weaker-Section in Private Schools

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: By the State Government of Tamil Nadu, 1,36,593 weaker-section students were admitted to the private unaided schools. Now, the Central Government is denying the fees of these students. These schools are refusing to admit the weaker-section students because of non-payment of fees due to them. Another issue is that the Central Government has taken a

stand that the pre-KG students are not entitled for any financial aid under the RTE Act. It is unconstitutional. So, I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to immediately sanction Rs.97.04 crores and also sanction the financial aid for the students who are admitted to the pre-KG classes.

(Shri D. Raja, Shri B.K. Hariprasad and Shri Bhupinder Singh associated.)

7. Demolition of the Houses of Families of Minorities and Dalits in Vadodara, Gujarat, and Non-allotment of New Houses to them

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: More than 300 Muslim and Dalit families in Vadodara city of Gujarat are forced to live on road for the last one month. The Vadodara Municipal Corporation had displaced them from Kalyan Nagar locality with the promise of providing houses to them on some other place. But these houses have not been handed over to them despite completion. The houses should be given to the entitled people.

(Shri Pramod Tiwari and Shri Neeraj Shekhar associated.)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): The Hon. Member should restrain his words. This kind of language should not be used for the Hon. Prime Minister.

8. Imitation of Indian Products by China

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: The Chinese companies are imitating several products of Indian companies which are exported and are famous in the international market which is resulting in the fall of export of these Indian companies. It is the total violation of WTO laws. Indian ambassador in China is giving the plea that nothing could be done in this regard as these Chinese companies are not listening to anyone. I urge upon the Minister of Commerce to take the

cognizance of this issue and raise the same in WTO and on other international forums.

(Several Hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Pathetic Condition of the National Highways in the Country

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: The standards of operations of the National Highway Authority have gone down pathetically. The roads in Uttar Pradesh along with the whole country are in a very pathetic condition. Several roads under NHA in our state are not even motorable. The NHA has levied the toll tax without even completing the roads. I urge upon the Government to fix some target for construction of roads under NHA and also to complete the roads which are still incomplete.

(Several Hon'ble Members associated.)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): I am agree with the point raised by the hon. member. The National Highways have been ignored during the last ten years. I would like to assure him that our Government would complete the uncompleted work on National Highways.

10. Rape Case in Odisha

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: I would like to draw the attention of this House and the Government towards the atrocities which have been taking place on the weaker sections, especially on the women. The Hon. Prime Minister had made rapes and women security one of the major issues during the campaign and promised to end such atrocities against them if he comes to power. But several incidents of rapes are being reported till now. Recently, in Odisha, a woman was raped and dumped in a well. Under the regime of this Government, the women and, especially, the STs & SCs are not safe.

11. Indian Workmen Kept in Confinement by a Company in Saudi Arabia

SHRIMATI KANAK LATA SINGH: About 175 workers from several Districts of Uttar Pradesh went for job in MMG-2 company of Saudi Arabia two years back, have been kept in confinement by the said company as bonded labours for several months. The condition of several workmen is very serious. Even two square meals are not being provided to them. Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia is aware about the matter. I would urge upon the Government to apprise the house on this sensitive issue and facilitate their return to the country.

(Several Hon'ble Members associated.)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): If the Hon. Member has the specific information on such an issue he should give it to me. I would pass it on to the hon. Minister of External Affairs for immediate help.

12. Steep Increase in Petrol-Diesel Prices

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Rs.3.96 per litre on petrol and Rs.2.37 per litre on diesel was increased. This is a huge rise. The Government accepted that they collected more than Rs.70,000 crore in the last three months from extra levy of taxes and excise. But, now, I do not know why the Government is increasing it like this and looting the money from the poor and common people of this country.

(Several Hon'ble Members associated.)

GOVERNMENT BILLS

**The Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill,
2015 - was introduced.**

The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2013

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE
MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY
ALLEVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** I move the following
motion:—

“That the Bill to establish the Real Estate Regulatory Authority for regulation and promotion of the real estate sector and to ensure sale of plot, apartment or building, as the case may be, in an efficient and transparent manner and to protect the interest of consumers in the real estate sector and establish the Appellate Tribunal to hear appeals from the decisions, directions or orders of the Authority and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be referred to a Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha consisting of the following Members:—

1. Shri Anil Madhav Dave
2. Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya
3. Shri Shamsheer Singh Manhas
4. Shri Shantaram Naik
5. Prof. M.V. Rajeev Gowda
6. Kumari Selja
7. Shri Naresh Agrawal
8. Shri K.C.Tyagi
9. Shri Md. Nadimul Haque
10. Shri A.W. Rabi Bernard

11. Shri Munquad Ali
12. Shri Ritabrata Banerjee
13. Shri A.U. Singh Deo
14. Shri C.M. Ramesh
15. Shri Majeed Memon
16. Dr. K.P. Ramalingam
17. Shri Anil Desai
18. Shri Naresh Gujral
19. Shri Nazir Ahmed Laway
20. Shri D. Kupendra Reddy
21. Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar."

Motion for reference of the Bill to a Select Committee was adopted.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Nineteenth Amendment) Bill, 2013

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ), moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said: This Bill is very important. In 1974, a Treaty was signed between Late Smt. Indira Gandhi and Sheikh Muzibur Rahman which is known as Indira-Muzib Treaty. Bangladesh had ratified it but it was not ratified by the Indian Parliament. In 2011 the then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh took a step and a Protocol was signed. I am hereby moving that very Protocol as a Bill for your consideration. In the beginning, it was decided that the Bill would be brought by keeping aside Assam because there was a voice of dissension. The negotiation with Tripura, West Bengal and Meghalaya has already

done. But finally it was decided that we will step further with Assam. I would like to apprise of the opposition that the Bill is as it was. Only the name Salman Khursheed is replaced by Sushma Swaraj. This Bill will disseminate this message that India is improving her relation with its neighbouring countries. I humbly submit that this Bill may be passed.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Defining borders for any nation is very necessary. But our borders with three of our major neighbours Pakistan, China and Bangladesh are still undemarcated. With this Bill we will be able to be in a situation with Bangladesh where we can actually have borders. There were various agreements. But they didn't work. This is a very interesting agreement. The Enclaves and Adverse Possessions have been dealt with in this Bill in detail. Surveys have been done. We wanted to be assured that if people from those enclaves come, they would be looked after. A provision to that effect has also been included in this Bill.

SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: I recall the day when Shri Narendra Modi took oath as the Prime Minister of the country and invited all the leaders of the neighbouring countries. That very day we all became hopeful that our relation with the neighbouring countries is going to be improved. The Chief Minister of West Bengal has shown a very positive attitude in this regard. I appeal to the entire House that this Bill should be passed unanimously. As it is in the overall national interest and it would pave the way for broader bilateral ties with Bangladesh.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: This Bill is a need of the hour. There were many enclaves and demarcation of land was necessary. It is a very sad thing that the border of our country is shrinking. China has encroached upon a big part of India but Bangladesh has always been a very friendly country. It is a good thing that Government has obtained consent of affected states. I want to know what arrangements will be made by the Government for the rehabilitation of affected persons and whether the persons living in the border of India will go back to Bangladesh? I support this Bill.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: We welcome this bill. India is emotionally attached to Bangladesh. This bill is a realization of dreams of Dr. Lohia. Since partition we are spending so much on our defence sector. We should debate on this matter also. I support this Bill. This step will strengthen our economic position in the world.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: When this Bill was introduced in 2013 at that time, we had opposed it. Because the pending social, political and economic issues involved in the matter were not discussed with the West Bengal. Now we support this Bill. Ms. Mamata Banerjee has urged upon the Central Government to help the State's intervention keeping in view the maximum displacement and to extend help for implementation of a comprehensive rehabilitation programme. Government of India has agreed to sanction the amount as per the requirement and this is why, the Government of West Bengal has accepted this Bill in totality. Once this Agreement is implemented the long-standing problems between these two countries would be resolved once and for all. I support this Bill.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: It is understood that the State Governments concerned were closely associated with the process of determination of adverse possession and enclaves. Now this Constitutional Amendment does not provide suitable rehabilitation and compensation to the people who will be returning from Indian Enclaves in Bangladesh. I urge upon the Government provide an acceptable package of rehabilitation to the people returning to India. I would urge upon the Central Government to take note of the Tamil Nadu fishermen's problems and also see to it that Katchatheevu is retrieved.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA: We support this Bill. It was long pending decision and now we are very happy with this decision. It is very necessary to ensure that the people being displaced in this process should accorded all facilities. We have to ensure their welfare and rights in Bangladesh. There must be appropriate rehabilitation programme for them. Proper arrangements should also be made for law and order. For this, we need to look at it very seriously with the Government of Bangladesh at international level

taking along all the Governments of three States. We must ensure that these people should not suffer any kind of loss and their livelihood should continue. We fully support this Bill.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Not only the people of our country are suffering, but today, 15 crores of Bengali people are living in Bangladesh. Most importantly, one crore and 50 lakh of Bengali people are basically residents of nowhere. The life of the enclave dwellers is, basically, miserable. They are practically men of nowhere land. There is no demarcation that separates enclave dwellers. The communities have the same culture and same food. Many people in these enclaves are going through an identity crisis. Life is often dangerous for these enclave dwellers. These enclaves have no basic amenities. Enclaves don't have hospitals. These enclaves remain, till date, an enigma. Now the long overdue exchange, will improve the lives of all residents of the enclaves. A loss of small territory, is illusory. Humanity will win. Partition was not done by the people of Bengal, but the people of Bengal have suffered due to partition. This is really a historic occasion. I support this historic endeavour.

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: After formation of Pakistan, the Government of Pakistan declared that the State language of Pakistan would be Urdu. The Bengali people rose in revolt. The movement was based on language. In 1952, Pakistan was compelled to declare Bengali as the second language of Pakistan and Bengali was introduced in East Pakistan. We had played a very big historic role to liberate Bangladesh from the dictatorship of Pakistan. We must seize this opportunity to settle the border issue and strengthen the cooperation with the Bangladeshi people. Our other neighbours should also follow the same way to settle their issues.

SHRI D. RAJA: I support this Bill. I find there is a national consensus for this Bill. Now, the Government should follow it up with a proper policy for resettlement and rehabilitation of the Indian people on either side. In 1974, Smt. Indira Gandhi, entered into a maritime boundary line Agreement with Sri Lanka. That is a contentious issue. The people of Tamil Nadu were not taken into confidence. Will you

ask the Sri Lankan Government for renegotiating the Katchatheevu Agreement? We wish the Indo-Chinese border talk ends in an acceptable solution to both the countries. The Government should have an open mind to address the concerns of the people of Tamil Nadu. When you propose this Bill for adoption, you should take the people of West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura into confidence.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Land boundary dispute led to continuation of the miserable plight of the people living in the enclaves of both the sides. Practically, lakhs of people have no land. Bangladesh has already changed their decision but unfortunately we were not prepared to transfer the land. I feel that this problem will be settled and the border fencing will also be completed. It is the duty of both the countries to minimize the 'humanitarian costs' of the Pact. The Government of India should ensure adequate safeguards for the Indian nationals so that they are not discriminated against in any way after having acquired Bangladeshi citizenship. Some people will be losing their land. Whether the Government has any planning to give them compensation when the people are transferred from one land to another land? Whether they will be properly protected?

SHRI SANJAY RAUT: My party Shiv Sena is fully supporting the Bill. The dispute of land transfer between Bangladesh and our country is going on since 1947, has been solved. When Governments changed, their relations with India also witnessed ups and down. We are showing a good step to the world that whatever we have promised to our neighbours are being fulfilled by us. The foreign policy is the domain of the Centre. But the interference of the States in it has risen to such level that long pending international matters are not dying down. A regional politics comes forward in Assam. What preparation, we have done for this? We would be able to stop infiltration legally now.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: I congratulate the minister for including Assam in the bill. History was created in 1971 when Bangladesh came into being under the leadership of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. The agreement signed in 2011 was for demarcation of

boundary, exchange of enclaves and adverse possession. The people living in enclaves are citizens of neither Bangladesh nor India. This bill will do away with the inhuman conditions in which these enclave dwellers live. A total of 714 acres of blank area would be a part of India. It is hoped that with this law, border fencing will be completed and the boundary with Bangladesh will be secured. Indians having land adjacent to the boundary, have no right over that land. It needs to be renegotiated.

SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: Sentiments of people of Assam have not been taken into account while bringing in the bill. When boundary was drawn in 1947, some area of Tripura, Mizoram and Meghalaya went to Bangladesh. Garo, Mizo and Manipuri people are compelled to stay in Bangladesh. Sometimes they don't get visa from Indian embassy to visit their relatives living in areas adjoining India's border. Measures should be taken to check people entering Assam and West Bengal illegally. After passage of this bill rehabilitation problem of people living in border areas should be solved. North East is sensitive because it shares border with China, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I support the bill which involves demarcation of boundaries, adverse position of territories and exchanges of enclaves with Bangladesh. We appreciate the Minister for successfully bringing this Bill to give effect to an agreement signed in 1974. In 1974, India ceded Kachchatheevu to Sri Lankan Government by another agreement without the consent of people of Tamil Nadu. Kachchatheevu is not part of Sri Lankan territory, though they may claim it so. It was assured that issues of fishermen would be resolved and Kachchatheevu would be retrieved. I suggest the hon. Minister to get the island of Kachchatheevu and adjoining seas either on a proprietary basis or on lease in perpetuity.

SHRI H.K. DUA: I support this bill which will facilitate early ratification of agreements signed many years ago. I hope it facilitates the signing of an Agreement on Teesta waters also. We should have good relations with Bangladesh and strengthen the hands

of Sheikh Hasina who has been cooperating with India in returning militants being harboured in Bangladesh territory.

DR. ASHOK S. GANGULY: I am hopeful that this bill will be passed unanimously in this House. I suggest that since a massive movement of people of West Bengal, Assam and Tripura is involved, we can have a temporary Rehabilitation Minister at the State level. It will help people living in enclaves. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina should be requested to take responsibility of Indians in Bangladesh territory. We should take the responsibility of people who come to Indian enclaves.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I urge the Minister to ensure transit facilities between North-East of India and the rest of India. We need to restore the economic integration between Bengal, Bangladesh and the North East. India will have to make heavy investments in infrastructure in Bangladesh. Transit facilities should be created for supply of additional electricity generated for supply to Bangladesh. A chain of integrated check posts at the border would help in checking the problems of smuggling and arrival of undesirable persons in India.

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: It is a matter of happiness that this matter is being solved. If all people are taken along matters can be solved. Shrimati Indira Gandhi and our military helped in creating Bangladesh. Our relations with Bangladesh have always been cordial. We should try to make a federation. I congratulate you for this commendable job.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister for bringing this Bill. This is very historical day today. 41 years before an agreement had been signed between Smt. Indira Gandhi and Bang Bandhu Muzibur Rahman. A decision is being taken thereon today after 41 years. In order to give shape to the agreement made between Muzibur Rahman ji and Indira ji, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and Dr. Manmohan Singh ji signed a protocol. Therefore, it is a very cheerful day for Bangladesh and for our country today. By this, thousands of people got lands, homes and a country. Till date, they

were in dilemma as to whether they belonged to Bangladesh or Hindustan. Such people will get their own country, where they can lead their future life in peace. On this occasion, I on behalf of my party, congratulate the Government of Bangladesh and Hon'ble Minister also that the agreement signed in 1974 between Bangladesh and our country is materialising today.

THE HON'BLE MINISTER, replying to the debate, said:

First of all, I would like to express my happiness that at the time of voting on this Bill Dr. Manmohan Singh ji is present in the House. I had said it initially and want to reiterate again that this task has been initiated by Dr. Manmohan Singh ji and we are only finalizing it. I am happy that everyone supported this cheerfully. But, some questions have also been raised and some concerns have been expressed. An Hon'ble Member had remarked that our borders are shrinking. I would like to say that at least by this agreement our border has not shrunk. We have been benefitted by 510 acres of land in Tripura, Bangladesh and Meghalaya and as far as enclaves are concerned, 10,000 acres of land is being transferred to that side but that is notional. These enclaves are situated in such interior areas that it is inaccessible for us. Therefore, as far as the question of borders is concerned, our borders have not shrunk in this matter.

The exchange of population is also not taking place. If Indian citizens living in the enclaves of Bangladesh desire to remain there, they will remain there and they will be granted the citizenship of Bangladesh and if Bangladeshi nationals residing in Indian enclaves desired to remain here, they will be granted Indian citizenship. This will be voluntary. We will, of course, ensure that if our citizens desired to continue to live in those enclaves by taking the citizenship of Bangladesh, they are given the same dignity which is being given to the citizens of Bangladesh. In this arrangement, overall 470 acres of land will come to us while 268 acres of land will be transferred to them.

Some of my colleagues asked that how the rehabilitation will be made. There must be a complete infrastructure for the people coming to Cooch Bihar district. After that, new infrastructures are

required in the enclaves under our jurisdiction. We shall make arrangements for it and we have also fixed money for the rest of the almost 35,000 maximum numbers of people. The Ministry of Home Affairs will be nodal agency in this matter which will make transactions of money in association with Chief Secretary, Bangladesh and their Government. Our relations with Bangladesh are very cordial today which will be even more cordial after passing of this Bill. I would like to add that it is a historical moment when this Bill is being passed. The agreement of 1974 is taking shape today after 41 years.

The Bill, as amended, was passed by a majority of the total membership of the House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members of the House present and voting.

The clauses etc., as amended, were adopted by a majority of the total membership of the House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members of the House present and voting

The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted by a majority of the total membership of the House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the Members of the House present and voting.

The Delhi High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2014

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA), moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said: The pecuniary jurisdiction of Delhi High Court and Delhi District Courts was last revised from rupees five lakh to rupees twenty lakh by Delhi High Court (Amendment) Act, 2003. The Coordination Committee of the Delhi Bar Association has been demanding to enhance the pecuniary jurisdiction of District Courts in Delhi up to rupees two crore in view of the fact that the property value has increased manifold. It has also increased the workload of the Delhi High Court. Poor people who are living in the far-flung areas of Delhi have to cover a considerable distance for approaching the High Court to seek justice in their cases. Keeping in

view the need to provide justice to the people within the vicinity of their locality and the proposal of the Government of NCT Delhi to enhance the pecuniary jurisdiction of the Delhi District Courts from existing rupees twenty lakh to rupees two crore, this Bill has been proposed. The Standing Committee has recommended for passing of the Bill and the High Court of Delhi also in a full bench has recommended increasing of original pecuniary jurisdiction of the High Court of Delhi, as well as, District Courts under the jurisdiction.

SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: People should get speedy justice from judiciary as justice delayed is justice denied. Large numbers of cases are pending in various High Courts of the country due to heavy workload and shortage of judges and such pendency is an impediment to litigants as they have to travel longer distance to the court. Hence pecuniary jurisdiction of Delhi High Court should be increased to Rs. two crores to provide justice to litigants. Infrastructure of District Courts should be enhanced, more judges should be appointed, more courts should start functioning and cases should be disposed of within two to three years to restore faith of people in judiciary.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: I support this Bill which would be beneficial for Delhites and lawyers and a big relief to judges. I am happy that today pecuniary jurisdiction is going to be raised to Rs. two crores. This will ensure speedy disposal of cases and availability of speedy justice to the common man. Work load of judges of High Courts would get lessened to much extent.

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: I support this Bill. A decision should be taken regarding poor people languishing in jails for want of bail. A large number of cases are pending in various courts of the country. Filing of PIL should be discouraged. System requires major overhauling. Speedy justice should be ensured for the poor of the country.

SHRI K.C. TYAGI: I support this Bill. A separate Bench of High Court should be constituted for Western Uttar Pradesh also. A judiciary reform committee under the chairmanship of retired Supreme Court judge should be constituted.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: The High Courts are generally considered courts of appeal and for enforcement of fundamental rights under Article 226 of the Constitution of India. Adjudication of civil suits by the High Courts should be discontinued. The Bill is a very good initiative to fast-track the judicial process. This move will help litigants to be heard in one of the District Courts across the city. This Bill will affect pendency of cases in the High Court. There should be uniformity in the pecuniary jurisdictions of High Courts across the country. All the stakeholders should be taken into confidence on the pros and cons of this Bill.

SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN: The High court of Delhi' ordinary original civil jurisdiction has increased the workload of the Delhi High court. The enhancement of pecuniary jurisdiction of district courts in Delhi was sought by the practicing advocates and the litigants as well. With the passing of this amendment Bill, the pecuniary jurisdiction of Delhi High Court will rise to Rs. 2 crore and above whereas the district courts will handle civil cases of the value from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 2 crores. Whether the district courts have sufficient number of judges to dispose of the cases expeditiously. I welcome this Bill.

SHRI VEER SINGH: The Delhi High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2014 has been brought to enhance the pecuniary jurisdiction of High court and district courts of the Delhi. This enhancement in pecuniary jurisdiction will decrease the burden of pending cases in the high court. Pending cases will be distributed among the district courts and as a result thereof litigants will get justice on time. I also request that there should be equality among High courts of the country regarding pecuniary jurisdiction. I support the Bill.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: I support this Bill. The pecuniary limit of Rs.20 lakh is to be increased to Rs.2 crore for Delhi civil courts. I support the issue of pecuniary jurisdiction. As per the Civil Procedure Code, entire district courts in the country are free to try cases upto any amount involved in it. So, civil courts across the country should have the same pecuniary jurisdiction and the system of augmenting the limit every ten years or five years has to be changed.

So, I am requesting the Government and hope that the Government will bring some legislation to amend the existing system of this *ad hoc* mechanism.

SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Increasing the pecuniary jurisdiction for Delhi High court is need of the hour and Delhi High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2014 is a welcome step in this regard. I on behalf of my party support this Bill.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: This is a very small amendment. But it has been stated in the Bill that in order to relieve the workload of the Delhi High Court, the pecuniary jurisdiction of High Court has been enhanced. Whether this will not pave way for additional workload at the district courts level because the number of cases pending in trial courts is huge across the country. This is applicable to all the State. The Government should take a holistic approach instead of a piecemeal approach in deciding the pecuniary jurisdiction of High Courts. The Government's move will certainly backfire. Regional languages should be made court languages of the concerned States. Government must consider this. I welcome this Bill.

PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: I support the Delhi High Court (Amendment) Bill to increase the pecuniary jurisdiction to rupees two crore. This is a move to try and improve the efficiency of the legal system and to clear the backlog of cases in the Delhi High Court. Can't we institute a formula whereby every five or ten years so that this pecuniary jurisdiction is amended. There should be classification of cases on the basis of offence? This will create a certain amount of specialisation in the way courts handle these cases. I would urge the Law Minister to work on more such programmes that train judicial officers and the judges so that this whole process of disposal of cases can be improved. Different courts in different States have adopted different standards some amount of uniformity will make a huge difference.

SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: I support the Delhi High Court (Amendment) Bill, 2014. This will provide justice to the Delhites at their door step. We need not concentrate the litigation as a matter of policy in the hands of the High Court. Justice must be dispensed at the grassroots level. I, therefore, hope that the Government after the passage of the Bill, notified it soon after it gets the assent.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: I support the Bill. This Bill should be implemented as early as possible after passing it. This Bill will increase the pecuniary jurisdiction from 20 lakh to 2 crore. Pending cases will be transferred to district courts. Corruption is in abundance in the lower Judiciary. That aspect also needs to be kept in mind and some mechanism should be developed by which Chief Justices of High Courts are able to curb corruption in the lower Judiciary.

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: We really welcome this Bill. These adhoc measures will not help the judicial system. There is uniformity as far as these kinds of judicial things are concerned. There must be separate High courts for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

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