

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Tuesday, May 10, 2016/ Vaisakha 20, 1938 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Unresolved Citizenship Issue of Goa People Who Have Registered Their Birth in Portugal

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Thousands of Goans born in Goa, Daman and Diu, prior to 19.12.1961, and in Dadra & Nagar Haveli, prior to 21.08.1954, and their births registered in the Civil Registration Offices of these territories before the above-mentioned dates have been given a facility by the Portuguese Government by issuing an order in 2006 to register their birth in Portugal. The issue has taken a complicated turn as thousands of Indian citizens are likely to be considered as non-citizens. We discussed this issue in the House and the Government had promised to give relief to Indian citizens on this matter. I would like to know the details of the action taken in this regard.

2. Dilution of Compulsory Jute Packaging Material in Contravention of JPMA Act

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: About 40 lacks of farmers and 4 lacks of industrial labourers of the 7 states of India are associated with the Jute cultivation. In 1987, Jute Packaging Materials

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

(Compulsory Use) Act was invoked. According to the Act, there was a provision that food grains would be kept in jute bags. Later, it was diluted. By this step, about 40 lacks of farmers and 4 lacks of industrial labourers would loose their job. I am against of this and urge upon the Government that it should not be trapped by plastic lobby.

(Several Hon'ble Members associated.)

3. Issue of Paid News Being Published in Newspapers as Advertisements

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: In our country media is independent. It is known as the Fourth Estate. People have faith in media but Paid News has destroyed it's accountability. The curtain between marketing department and correspondents has been unveiled. The media should constitute a Media Accountability Committee so that readers would not be misguided.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: A Short duration discussion on this issue must be held in this House.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: In democracy media have a major role, the Government must look into this matter.

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: This is not the question of only print media but the electronic media is also involved in yellow journalism.

SHRI K.C. TYAGI: I had given a notice to the Press Council, but no action was taken.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Today, the elections have become more expensive only because of paid news.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: This paid news is a blot on democracy.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY), responding to the matter, said: I have no doubt that all

of us in this House are absolutely committed to free speech. But, at the same time, we see some aberrations in it. The Paid News is certainly one of those aberrations. Many of us have been victims of this Paid News. My suggestion is to have a discussion on the subject any time during this or the next Session.

4. Stranded Indian Workers in Mecca in Saudi Arabia

SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Almost 150 labourers including technicians and engineers are stranded in a company situated in Mecca of Saudi Arabia. Their condition is pathetic. They are eager to come back to India but the company is not allowing them to come back. The Government must do something for their retreat. The Government must arrange for their tickets and ensure the payment of the arrears of their salary.

(Several Hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Removal of Names of National Icons from Textbooks and Other Places

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Today, the history is being distorted. The names of our historical icons are being erased from the history and text books. When we were in the Government, we had not done such things. The Government should be beware of such actions.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: How can the Government remove the names and the contribution of the Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru from text books!

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: The distortion in the history would not be accepted.

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), responding to the matter, said: I would like to ensure that neither the names of icons are being removed nor the names of icons would be hidden. All the names of our leaders will remain there. No name will be removed.

6. Appointment of Retired Judges in Government Posts, Affecting Neutrality of Judiciary

SHRI A.U. SINGH DEO: I would like to know that the practice of appointment of retired Supreme Court Justices in various political capacities is morally correct or not. Whether it does not pose serious danger to judicial neutrality, as large number of Government cases are pending in the Supreme Court. We therefore recommend that a constitutional bar should be imposed on such practice. I also wrote to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Law and Justice in this regard. The Law Minister has said that the Government had introduced the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill in 2012. I request the Government to bring this Bill back.

(Several Hon'ble Members associated.)

7. Threat to Western Ghats Due to Harmful Industrial Activities

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Today Western Ghats are in a very dangerous position. There are about 50 major dams along the length of Western Ghats. On the one hand, these are a threat to the Western Ghats and on the other hand, you also need industries. So the challenge now is very cautious and conscious for the Minister of Environment and Forest and how best they can control this eroding of Western Ghat is very important. The area is ecologically sensitive. This area has many reserved forests, national parks and hill stations. Unfortunately it has been seriously threatened by harmful industrial activities. No doubt industry is very important for development but it has to be balanced.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: I associate myself with this matter.

8. Severe Drought and Heat Wave in Telangana

SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: I would like to bring to your notice the severe drought condition and heat waves in Telangana. I request the Government to provide financial and other assistance to the State of Telangana. The acute shortage of water and fodder is forcing the people, especially farmers, to sell their cattle at throwaway

prices. The food grains production is dropped. The Government of Telangana has asked to provide assistance. But much assistance has not been provided yet. Due to the heat wave, nearly 200 people died. But the Government of Telangana and the Government of India are not taking any steps to come to the rescue of poor people of Telangana. In view of above I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to immediately intervene and come to the rescue of Telangana with additional resources.

(Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu and Shri Palvai Govardhan Reddy associated.)

9. Pilferage and Siphoning of Food Grains in Punjab

SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA: I wish to draw the attention to a matter of grave public concern regarding rampant corruption, pilferage and diversion of food grains in the State of Punjab. CAG have found glaring discrepancies and corruption in the food procurement, distribution and supply chain in Punjab. Still no FIR was registered by the Government of Punjab in this regard. This reflects collusion and corruption in the Government of Punjab. It was found that in some cases of misappropriation the Punjab Government did not even report the matter to the police authorities. This shows collusion between the Government and the food mafia. We want a CBI inquiry into this.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: This is totally politically motivated and baseless.

10. Crisis Due to Severe Drought in the Country

DR. CHANDRAPAL SINGH YADAV: Today the whole country and especially ten states are reeling under drought. But Government is trying to politicize this whole issue. Government is trying to provide help to Uttar Pradesh in every possible manner but Madhya Pradesh is being neglected. It is very strange that one train has been stationed in the Jhansi and it is being said that it will carry the water for the Bundelkhand. Yesterday one journalist died there because of electrocution. Central Government should take responsibility for this incident. I would like to request that the

demand of Madhya Pradesh for water tankers and economic assistance should be fulfilled at the earliest.

(Several Hon'ble Members associated)

11. Need to protect Odia Language in Various States

SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: There are linguistic minorities in each State, but it is a matter of great regret that all the States are not taking care for protection and promotion of their culture and language. So far as the Odias are concerned the States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Delhi and other States are not taking adequate care to impart education to their children in their mother-tongue. Keeping the above facts in view adequate steps should be taken to protect and promote Odia language in various States. Bengali and Odia is also the second language in Jharkhand. But the Government of Jharkhand is not taking adequate measures to teach Odia language and same is the case in Chhattisgarh. We must discuss on this issue.

(Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, Shri Dilip Kumar Tirkey, Shri Bhupinder Singh, Shri Sharad Yadav and Dr. Anil Kumar Sahani associated.)

12. Incidents of People Falsely Accused in Terror Cases

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: It is true that no mercy should be shown towards terrorists. But at the same time arresting the people merely on the basis of suspicion is very wrong. Nine people had been arrested in connection to Maharashtra bomb blast case, 2006. But now they have been released as innocents. Usually all such things put bad affects on social status of concerned people. They need rehabilitation. There is need to fix accountability of investigation agencies also. It is my request that nobody should be arrested just on the basis of suspicion and religion.

13. 160th Anniversary of First War of Independence led by Jhansi Ki Rani

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: This House ought to have taken cognizance of the fact that is the first day of the First War of Independence. Many people right from North India to South India

lost their lives in this war. Therefore this day should be given recognition all over the country. The British people called it 'mutiny.' Even today it is being called 'mutiny' in our textbooks which is a matter of great national shame and it should be rectified.

(Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu, dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, Shri Narayan Lal Panchariya, Chaudhary Munvvar Saleem and Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad associated.)

THE BUDGET (UTTARAKHAND) 2016-2017

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): I lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) of the Estimated Receipts & Expenditure and Demands for Grants of the State of Uttarakhand for the year 2016-2017.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

1. The Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2016-Contd.

2. The Finance Bill, 2016-Contd.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: I stand to support both the Bills. No one can deny that there was a distinct slowdown in our growth rate in the last two-three years of the UPA Government. There were various reasons, not just external, even internal, like the 2G, 3G, Coal, and other scams. I need to commend our Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Finance Minister because today when the global GDP is about 3.5 per cent, ours is more than double, at 7.6 per cent. On one account, there has been dip in the oil prices, but monsoon has failed.

(Speech unfinished)

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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**ERRATA TO THE SUPPLEMENT TO SYNOPSIS OF
DEBATE DATED 6TH MAY, 2016**

Page No.	Line No.	Correction
159	17	Add 'water' after 'potable'