

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Thursday, January 04, 2018/ Pausha 14, 1939 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Concern over Atrocities on Dalits in Maharashtra

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: The recent caste clashes in Bhima-Koregaon, that spread across Maharashtra and led to violence in Ahmadnagar, Pune and Nagpur, are condemnable. About 200 years ago, on 1st Jan, 1818 Bhima-Koregaon was witness to a historical fight in which Mahar Regiment had defeated Peshwas. A victory memorial was erected for this, and in order to commemorate Bhima-Koregaon battle victory, a programme was held at the place. But despite knowing that people in large numbers would be congregating at the memorial, no proper arrangements were in place for their safety. Hence, I request the Government to take action against the persons responsible for such violence.

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: When the Government knew this fact that a function is held every year in Bhima-Koregaon, it was the responsibility of the Government to provide security to the people coming at the said memorial. I would request the Government to take stringent action against the people involved in the said incident and constitute a commission which would decide the future course of action.

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

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: This is a serious issue. The real culprits must be brought before the court and they must be dealt with, in accordance with the law. We must concentrate on developmental activities rather than concentrating on caste or communal lines. I strongly condemn this act.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: The marginalised are under attack, be they dalits, minorities, women or OBCs. It is not an isolated incident but a pattern is emerging. I will say this much that such type of political lynching should immediately stop and an impartial judicial enquiry into the incident of Bhima-Koregaon, be carried out.

SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: The atrocities being perpetrated on dalits is really condemnable. It is not an isolated incident of Maharashtra alone rather dalits are being subject to atrocities throughout the country. Hence, I request the Government to find out reasons for the same.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: What is happening now is not only the Dalits but the minorities and women are also the targets in all parts of the country. Some action must be taken. Hence, I demand a judicial inquiry into the Maharashtra incident by a sitting Supreme Court Judge so that the culprits are brought to book. This should not happen in any other State.

SHRI VEER SINGH: Recent incidents of atrocity perpetrated on dalit society on the occasion of commemoration of 200th anniversary of Bhima-Koregaon battle, is strongly condemnable. Hence, I request that an enquiry be carried out into the matter by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The recent incident of Bhima-Koregaon on 1st Jan, 2018 has hurt the sentiments of the entire country. The place has a historical background. A big battle took place here 200 years ago in which Mahar Regiment along with Britishers had defeated the army of Peshwas. A victory memorial had been erected at that place. People of dalit community have been offering their prayers at the memorial for the last 200 years. Government

should have made proper arrangements for the safety of the people congregated at the place. Hence, I request that efforts should be made to maintain peace and harmony among the people of both the sides.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: The spirit of patriotism cannot be defined and can not be inflicted upon anybody. Dalits, students, women and minorities are being forced to live in fear. Whatever has happened, cannot be treated as an isolated incident. We have to chalk out long-term solutions to make people of this society feel comfortable and safe in this country. A judicial enquiry into the matter should be carried out.

SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Whatever happened in Bhima-Koregaon is very unfortunate. The Government of Maharashtra exercised much restraint otherwise situation could have worsened considerably. Some invisible forces were behind Bhima-Koregaon incident. I would like to say that the Government should focus to save Maharashtra from the forces inclined to destabilise the economic hub of the country.

SARDAR BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: The incident of Maharashtra is very unfortunate. Such incidents pose a threat to the unity and integrity of the country. We should work together so as to strengthen the country for alleviation of poverty and further brotherhood in society.

SHRI D. RAJA: I strongly condemn the attacks on Dalits in Maharashtra. I must point out that the Dalits issue needs to be addressed honestly by all the political parties and by Parliament. Dalit assertion must be understood in a correct perspective. Such incidents of atrocities on Dalits must be condemned by all and by Parliament.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE), responding to the matter, said: The incident that took place in Bhima-Koregaon is highly condemnable. It must not have happened. The atrocities on the Dalits should not be viewed politically. We all should try to stop recurrence of such incidents and

abolish the caste system. I hope that the State Government would take strict action against the persons responsible for the riot.

SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: I highly condemn the incident that took place in bheema-koreganw in Maharashtra. The atrocities on the Dalits are certainly unfortunate and condemnable but the ideology behind this condemnation must come to the notice of country. It should be viewed apart from politics.

SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: I have been travelling extensively in Maharashtra to get the Bahujan Samaj together. Today is the saddest day of my life seeing the violence between these two communities. I appeal to the people of Maharashtra to keep away from violence and the unwanted elements of society who are disturbing the peace and harmony in the society.

2. Need to rename West Bengal as Bangla

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: With the partition of Bengal, the people with the same culture and civilization were divided. In 1971, Bangladesh was formed. Today, no geographical part of the then undivided Bengal is known as East Bengal. So, it is necessary now to change the name of West Bengal as 'Bangla' in all the three languages, that is Bengali, English and Hindi. The West Bengal State Assembly has passed a resolution in September 2017 in this regard. I will urge upon the Union Government to clear the name BANGLA and honour the sentiments of the common people of West Bengal.

(Shri P. Bhattacharya, Shri Vivek Gupta, Shri Md. Nadimul Haque, Shri Anubhav Mohanty and Shri Manish Gupta Associated.)

3. Need to fill the Vacancy Caused due to Retirement of Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal

MS. DOLA SEN: Justice Swatanter Kumar retired as the Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal on December 19, 2017. Several important disputes are currently sub judice before the Tribunal. In the absence of a full-fledged Chairperson, the Tribunal would not be well-equipped to function effectively. I urge the

Government to announce the new Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal as early as possible for the sake of our nation and for the sake of all our citizens.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

4. Concern over Job Loss due to Closure of Indian Fireworks Industry

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: The fireworks industry at Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu has closed down all its 840 factories due to a fear of all-India ban on fireworks. No other country in the world has imposed a ban on fireworks. Pollution is not because of fireworks alone. So, I request the Government to exempt the fireworks industry from Rule 3(B) of the Environment Protection Rules, 1986 in view of the lives of so many people and the economy of the country.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN), responding to the matter, said: The issue raised by the hon'ble Member, Shri Tiruchi Siva, is very important for that region. I will certainly convey that to the concerned Minister.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Need to take back Increased Fare in Case of Delayed Running of Mail and Superfast Trains

SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Presently, train passengers have to pay the increased fare as superfast charges even in the case of delayed running of mail and superfast trains. Railways have converted so many trains into superfast ones but they do not run in the speed of a superfast train. The CAG has also strongly objected to it. Therefore, I request to make necessary arrangements to take back the increased fare in case of delayed running or this type of charges should not be levied. The continuously delayed trains should be degraded to mail or express trains and the recommendations of Dr. Anil Kakodkar Committee should be implemented for safe and timely journey.

(Shri Sanjiv Kumar associated.)

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL), responding to the matter, said: Government has been trying to increase the infrastructure. The weather is foggy nowadays. This is why the Railway has to give priority to the safely leading to delayed running of the trains. Safety involves track renewal. If it had been done earlier, perhaps this problem would not have been witnessed now.

6. Need to grant Scheduled Caste Status for Kurmi Community in West Bengal

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: In the 1913, Kurmis in West Bengal were part of the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste List, but in 1931, mysteriously they were removed from that List. Since then, they have been ignored. These people are mostly living around the forest areas and they have been described as tribals, but they are not getting any benefits under the Tribal Act and other benefits available to tribals. I request the Government to include them as Scheduled Caste.

(Shri Md. Nadimul Haque, Shrimati Roopa Ganguly, Ms. Dola Sen and Shri Ritabrata Banerjee associated.)

7. Need to implement the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act in its True Letter and Spirit

DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: All Sections of the AP Reorganisation Act have to be implemented in time without burdening the State in any way. I urge upon the Government of India to immediately implement provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, in its true letter and spirit.

8. Concern over Cancellation of H-1B Visa Programme by US Administration

PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: The proposal under consideration not to extend H-1B Visas for those waiting for the Green Card has the potential to adversely impact lives of lakhs of Indians who are on the risk of deportation. They are the huge contributors to the US economy. So, it is also bad for the US to do this kind of a disruptive move. In view of this, I urge the Government

to address this issue and assist all these people facing the risk of having to come back home in a disruptive manner.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: If this decision is taken, thousands of Indians will fall in much trouble. I would like to be apprised by the Government of the details of the communication with US administration. I also request to make the House aware of the same.

9. Need to issue Direction to SBI Authorities to furnish Adequate Details of Educational Loans to Borrowers of Erstwhile SBT

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Almost 20,000 students, who availed education loan from the SBT before merger with the SBI, are not in even a position to apply for relief declared by the Government of Kerala. When they approached the same branch which is now run by the SBI, it is not ready to receive application for relief package. Neither the State Bank of India nor the Reliance Asset and Reconstruction Company is ready to furnish adequate details of the loans to the Government. Hence my appeal is that the Union Government should interfere in this matter with due gravity.

**SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
2017-18**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2017-18.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

The State of Economy, Investment Climate and Job Creation in the Country and the Need to address the Challenge of Rising Unemployment

SHRI ANAND SHARMA, replying to the discussion, said: Today, our economy is facing a crisis of unemployment and business

slow down. Country is facing challenges when it comes to economic issues. The situation is contrary to what the government is showing. There is no growth today. How much investment has been made in private sector. How many industries have been set up. What about the Gross fixed capital formation. What is the situation of export/import. What is the situation of credit to Industries and agricultural sector. National investment has fallen, national savings are decreasing. Gross fixed capital formation has fallen. In spite of slow down, UPA government did well but today merchandise export has decreased. The growth of export was 17 to 20 per cent in our tenure which is also facing slow down. There is no decline in the global trade. Government can claim the fall in the international oil prices. But benefit has not been passed on to the consumer. Petrol prices are still same in Delhi as they were in May 2014. The Finance Minister must respond as to why this situation is there. Our economy has seen continuous fall in it for the last one year. One of the main reasons for this was the decision of demonetization by the Prime Minister. Kindly tell us as to how much black money has come. Everyone heard that funding to terrorism will stop, printing of fake currency will stop, black marketing will come to an end and black money will be out. You said that it will remove corruption but corruption increased overnight. People of the country were in queues outside banks and ATMs but what action was taken against those who were caught with new currencies worth 20 crore, 50 crore and 80 crore rupees. The former Prime Minister had warned the hon'ble Prime Minister that this will cause deficit of two percent to our GDP. That deficit would never be compensated. After that, ignoring our advice you took the second big step of GST in haste. We extended our cooperation to you so that GST amendment could be passed. What happened after that? After demonetization the demand of around 17-18 thousand crore rupees had grown up in MGNREGA. That demand has gone up again. I will come to agriculture sector also. The farmer has not got the remuneration of Kharif crops. Today, there is no money in rural areas. The credit provided to agriculture sector has come to half. As far as the credit to industries is concerned, that has also reached to the lowest in 65 years. Banks have no money to lend;

industry has no capacity to take. Then, how come you are growing? This year, we have grown at 5.7 per cent and 6.3 per cent in the first two quarters after five quarters of consecutive fall. Can anybody, any economist or mathematician, explain to me and to the country that how come we are the fastest growing economy? 12 crore people work in MSME sector. 30 percent businesses have seen closures in that sector and 33 percent employment has diminished. By the month of October 3 crore 72 lakh jobs had been done away with. Today, the position of economic miracle is that if even a slight growth is noticed, entire Government celebrates. Fiscal deficit has already reached 112 percent and Current Account deficit is 1.9 percent. Your revenue collections have gone down post-GST. The Central Government Tax Revenues are coming down. How do you propose to address this issue and of the big revenue deficit? The only way to revive the economy is the Government spending. Government reduced its expenditure because it spent more money. Government is not investing and taking loans. In the long run I wish to submit that we have put forth our concerns. They are not for the sake of criticism only but some facts and figures have also been given. What are the road maps with the Government for future which could provide a direction and impetus to our economy, particularly what are the programmes and means with Government for agriculture sector?

SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV: Congress ruled this country for a long time. There was the report of Law Commission in 1960 which asked to enact the law of insolvency in the country. Please tell us as to why this law was not framed from 1960 to 2016 in the country? You talk about MGNREGA. There is whole document of CAG for your Government's period. The Government had conceded in the action taken report that corruption was there in MGNREGA. Taking out the country from the period of policy paralysis this Government has taken the country ahead on the path of development. Today, the economy of India has achieved a destination and confidence of the people. Regarding the growth of economy, it has been speculated by International Monetary Fund that India will grow at the rate of 6.7 percent in 2017 and 7.4 percent in 2018, while the growth rate of China is likely to be 6.5 percent only. As per World

Economic Forum, in Global Competitive Index, India stands at 40th place among 137 countries in 2017-18. This Government has taken some reformative steps during the last 3 years and has been successful in controlling the corruption. The main reason for more FDI in the country is that structural reforms of the Government has strengthened our economy. All the states have shown good cooperation regarding implementation of GST and all the decisions of the GST council have been taken unanimously. Ours Forex reserves has increased now. We have given priority to housing sector, construction of Highways, increasing connectivity of coastal areas, enhancing loan distribution in industrial sector, etc. in our budget and this has helped in taking forward our economy. The employment opportunities have increased in various sectors like, manufacturing, construction, trade, transport, IT & BPO, education, health, etc. and such opportunities have also increased in informal sector and much work has been done in schemes like, MGNREGA, Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana, PMAY, Make in India, MUDRA Yojana, etc. so that more employment is generated in rural areas. This Government has shown the courage and will power to take the decisions which are in the interests of the poor people of the country.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Almost 80 percent of our people does not know and understand the statistical figures used to be presented regarding economy and unemployment as the ground reality seems to be otherwise. We can't say that ours economy is in good condition because the situation in the villages is something different, people have no sufficient food, cloths, medicines and money for sending their wards to a good school for education. The economic conditions of only 5 or 10 percent people has improved to some extent. One of our neighbouring countries has more yield of paddy and wheat per hectare despite having less cultivable area than us. Though our 60 percent population is dependent on agriculture, but its growth is very low. The Government should support agriculture and the small scale industries which provides huge employment in order to improve the economic conditions of the people. We are spending very small money in health and education sectors and also, there is no system of proper monitoring. China has entered into our domestic

markets and has ruined the livelihood of our weavers, craftsmen, etc., so the Government should take effective steps for saving our country from becoming a dumping ground of Chinese items and improving our economy. Our per capita consumption of electricity is much low which considered to be a criterion for measuring a nation's prosperity. The Government should provide electricity at a cheaper rate to the small-scale industries and agriculture sector for better results. The steps taken by this Government like, demonetisation and GST has badly affected the small industries. I urge upon the Government to take constructive and strong steps for improving the economy of the country.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: The Central Government has allotted 57,000 seats in the BPO sector to Tamil Nadu. But it is not sufficient because most of the engineering colleges have been closed and also there is no campus interview in any of the educational institutions. So, I request the Central Government to allot more number of seats in the BPO sector. Our State is a manufacturing State. Of course, we will get compensation under GST, but agriculture has to be revived. The banking system is already not functioning in favour of the agriculturists. I urge upon the Government to implement the proposals regarding bringing water to Kallanai Dam. If water is brought to Kallanai Dam, then definitely, entire Tamil Nadu will become very prosperous. I am very happy that Prime Minister is taking care of the poor people in a proper perspective. The Central Government must take a final decision, as early as possible for establishing an AIIMS in Tamil Nadu to fulfil the dream of hon. Amma. I urge the Central Government to take appropriate steps to provide uninterrupted electricity and internet connection to the rural area. Sports activities must be encouraged among the rural people. Regarding the scholarship to the SC/ST students, I hope the hon. Minister will do the needful and help the SC/ST students. Opportunity must be given to the candidates belonging to the OBC and their sensitization has to be created so that the posts are not filled up by other candidates. Regarding the start-ups, it has to be taken care of by our hon. Finance Minister. I feel that the demands on behalf of the State Government will be taken care of. No agricultural activity is

not taking place because of the scarcity of water. Please, restore our dignity by providing water and do the needful.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: In every field of economy, the Government has failed miserably. I am saying so because of the introduction of demonetization the mismanagement of the GST. The GDP growth has already declined. If we look at the gross fixed capital formation, the investment rate was further down. Manufacturing and electricity sector output were lower compared to the previous years. Regarding doubling the income of the farmers to their cost of production, nothing has yet been done. The fiscal deficit number would go up for the financial year 2018. Foreign Direct Investment has no doubt increased. But it has not created jobs in the country. The rate of employment has declined and job creation has not kept pace with the growing working-age population. 30 per cent between the age-group of 15 to 29 years are not in employment. The Government should declare the names of the people involved in Panama and Paradise papers. I request that the Government should bring out a white paper on black-money.

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: To strengthen the rural infrastructure and a sustainable agro-economy, heavy investment in infrastructure was required. The previous Government couldn't do much on this front. This Government has not given even five lakh jobs in four years. Heavy investment in infrastructure development, conducive atmosphere for manufacturing and the smooth policy decisions in finance and governance are yet to be taken off. In the last four years all the parameters of the economic indicators are showing a downward trend. Due to lack of investment by the Government in social sectors, we have not done much. Today, our engineering and MBA pass outs are running from pillar to post to get a salesman's job. It should be made compulsory by the Government that the compulsory education for all should be till 12th standard, or, at the age of eighteen. Demonetization and GST has added to the very serious problem of unemployment. A lot of employment is being generated by the film industry. GST has broken down the bones of the film industry. The youth aspirations be fulfilled not by speeches

and by jumlas that were made in 2014. If the Government does not put a strong view on these issues, this unemployment matter in 2019 is going to give a strong setback.

SHRI HARIVANSH: The previous government talked about poverty but they have increased the richness of one percent people. They have made India the most unequal society of the world. Now the crorepatitis have increased to 23.7% and their total income has gone down to 25%. This government has brought down the richness and the richness of rich people was given to the poor. They have used AADHAR and DBT which resulted in the increase of taxpayers.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: This Government would be finished in 2019. The economy is in an absolute shambles. It is loudly remarked 'ease of doing business', but India is actually going down in the rankings on global hunger. The world record says that your rank on Global Hunger Index is going down. The Country's advancement, returns on investment and prosperity must be measured by productivity and employment generation. Thousands of employment opportunities generated have been completely wiped off. It was promised that two crore jobs would be created every year. But we are not able to reach even 50 lakhs. Agrarian crisis is the worst crisis which we have suffered. There is no help from the Centre. Swaminathan's Report is not being implemented. The only gainers are the corporates. The demonetization and GST have only helped the corporates. Sixty-five per cent wealth has gone to only one per cent people. Looting the majority and benefiting the handful has become the order of the day. The Government is corrupt. The Government policy has adversely affected the economy and it is actually a policy of corruption. The entire policy regime must be reversed to save the people and save the country.

SHRI VEER SINGH: The unemployment is the biggest problem of the country as of now, as a result the number of unemployed persons are increasing and gradually this problem is becoming more complicated. A slogan about poverty alleviation was given, whereas only the rich have benefitted and poor's are becoming more poorer. The public sector companies are being sold to capitalists, and people belonging to SC, ST and other backward classes are suffering a lot and the new generation won't get the jobs. Reservation will no longer be there. They should be given reservation in the private sector as well. It was promised that two crores jobs per annum will be created, still that promise is yet to be fulfilled. The educated youth is feeling cheated. The unemployment has increased. Every state is lagging behind in filling the backlog of SC, ST and OBC vacancies. All State Government should make efforts in this regard. The policy is being changed. The job opportunities are being wiped-out. The jobs are not offered to the SC, ST and OBCs in the Municipalities, and contractual system is being implemented.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: When we consider the share market, it seems everything is fine and all problems have been resolved. But many questions are still there. The Government have got an extremely favourable condition about the Oil prices. For the last four years, the oil price condition continues to be favourable. But in spite of that, still the adverse effect is seen on several of our economic parameters, particularly with regard to job creation. More job creations should be there. Jobs are being cut in rural economy, and no new jobs are being created in the cities. New industries are also not coming up at an expected speed. Ease of Doing Business should not be limited to important offices of Delhi. It also goes down to the States which are the real implementing agencies. It is one of the biggest challenge. Amount of exports is not growing at the rate with which we would be comfortable. In spite of India being one of the cheapest areas in the world to source its goods from, we are still not able to break into a higher export zone. One more important thing is farming sector. There is not a universal growth in the farming sector. You have reduced the allocation for the schemes related to the rural economy. The GST data is also showing declining trends. Another

issue is about the imbalance that is now taking place between the Indo-China trade. Every year, the trade gap is increasing. On the one side, we want 'Make in India' and we want to grow our economy; on the other side, we are helping another country to grow its economy at our cost. Ultimately, this will affect job creation and growth of our economy.

SHRI ANIL DESAI: We may look at the effects of demonetisation. In the initial stages, it affected the informal sector. Small-scale businesses were affected. Some unemployment did take place. But, the better side of it was that the basic aim of demonetisation to curb black-money and unearth black-money has resulted in giving good results. Another major thing was GST, the greatest indirect tax reform that India has ever seen. In the initial stages, that too had adverse effect as far as business community is concerned. But, the shortcomings, which were there in the initial stages, are being removed. The revenue is increasing, which was aimed at progressive economy of the country. The loopholes are plugged. Transparency has come and GST is showing its worth. In the last couple of years, successive monsoon failures did occur, the agricultural economy has been badly affected. We have to rehabilitate, bring them into the mainstream and to provide the jobs and opportunities for the rural community. It is a daunting task for the Government. As for investment within India is concerned, that is also being taken care of by giving them good platform like 'Make in India' and even 'Ease of Doing Business'. A lot of hurdles are there but they are also being taken care of. As far as the State of Maharashtra is concerned, we have 'Make in Maharashtra', where good results are forthcoming, and even the foreign investment is really coming there. The Maharashtra will be the number one progressive State in times to come. With the re-capitalization programme declared by the Government of India, banks would be replete with funds. The public sector is on decline as far as job opportunities are concerned but the private sector and manufacturing sectors are there which are providing maximum of employment to the people of our country. A lot of schemes are being evolved and a lot of new opportunities are being created so that the employment opportunities will increase in the

country. The unorganized sector that should be the area where the Government has to pay more attention, because the exploitation of labour is taking place there. They have resorted to employing people on the contract basis. The Government has to create opportunities and channelize the funds in the informal sector. The unorganized sector, that should be given more thrust so that all-round development would come and economy reaches on the right track.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: The overall job creation has come down in the recent past. The participation of women labour force is going down and employment is decreasing among the educated people. In a employment and unemployment survey during the last five years, there is a significant fall in the job creation. The number of people in the workforce is to the total workforce in the economy declined by 1.6 crore between March, 2014 and July, 2015. The National Sample Survey Office report shows that labour force participation rate of women in rural India has slipped dramatically in the last 20 years. We often think that more education will lead to more employment. But, in fact, the situation is not so in India. The unemployment rate for persons aged between 18 and 29, who are not literate is 2.2 per cent and graduate and above, it is 18.4 per cent. When we refer particularly to the IT sector, it is also facing trouble today. More than one lakh IT workers in India are expected to lose jobs in 2017 and 2018 due to increased automation of IT services.

SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: When the incumbent Government came into power in 2014, the economic and industrialization, was not good and FDI flow was too low, the condition about employment was also very bad. The condition of the banks, particularly with regard to NPAs was worrisome. These all tasks are challenging. In comparison to time when this Government came into power, now the conditions have changed too much. Not only the Government have streamlined the old issues, simultaneously it has moved the development agenda rather rapidly. Re-capitalization of the banks, Ease of doing business, promoting Make in India, participation of Indian companies in the Defence Sector, promotion of the start-up companies, distribution of Mudra Loan, increase in the scholarship, preparing the affordable

housing and preparing the plan for housing for all, promoting the alternate fuel, promoting the schemes beneficial for socially and economically backward people etc. are the initiatives taken by Government. This Government has started all these progressive reforms. The Demonetization and GST are the revolutionary steps taken by this Government. Whenever any major step is taken, initially it hurts all. It is not so, that today's decision would yield the result immediately. Initially there were problems, but today we are seeing the fruit of it. For instance FOREX reserves have increased and stock exchanges are seeing substantial increase day after day, fiscal deficit is reduced, substantial growth is seen in steel and cement sector etc. Mudra loan is a huge success for small and poor, FDI is increasing day-in-and-day-out; country's rating has moved ahead. Economy of the country has rapidly strengthened and in coming days, it will continue.

SHRI SHADI LAL BATRA: Many promises were made four years ago. On the basis of these promises, present Government won the election. But thereafter which promise has been fulfilled? What Government has done for agriculture sector? As per the report of Niti Ayog, following demonetization, farmers had no cash to purchase seeds and fertilizers. As per report of Niti Ayog, one per cent decrease in fertilizer use can result in a 0.1 per cent decrease in agricultural GDP and 0.14 per cent decrease in crop output. The report also states that demonetization was responsible for creating a glut in the market in December 2016. 52 percent people engaged in agriculture became jobless. Initially for two years, Government reduced the budget for MNREGA. This year it has been increased and they have recognized that this programme provides employment but as this benefit could not reach up to the villages, required results could not be achieved. I would like to say that this Government is concerned about corporate sector. This Government is neither for the poor people nor for the country.

SHRI D. RAJA: Our economy is in a very bad shape. After demonetization, GST roll out, many economists have admitted that it will lead to economic slow-down. Now, the industrial sector, manufacturing sector, small and medium sector, all are in crisis. Agriculture is passing through unprecedented distress. Unemployment and under-employment are the most burning problems which the youth of this country are facing. Government, should realise that the economic reforms, which all of us have adopted, had led to unprecedented inequalities. In 2008, there was a global financial crisis. India was not that way affected by that crisis. Government claimed that it was because our fundamentals like public sector undertakings, public sector banks, public sector insurance companies were quite strong. These fundamentals are being weakened now in the name of disinvestment, privatization and selling of Government equities. Weakening of public sector weakens our economy. What is that we claim that India has grown when our children are malnourished. Providing healthcare, education, decent dwelling, adequate means of livelihood, must be the objective of any Government. We oppose the privatization of the public sector. This Government has taken a decision even to get rid of the soldiers' uniforms, and they have taken a decision to grant Rs. 10,000 as uniform allowance to the soldiers of the Armed Forces. This decision would result in closure of ordnance and equipment factories and 12,000 employees, are likely to lose their jobs. I strongly feel that Government should not go in for reckless and massive disinvestment of public sector undertakings. We have been demanding that there should be a Central legislation on the Scheduled Castes Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan. Nobody knows Government's thinking in this regard. They are the working class. They create wealth. What is the share of these working people in the country's wealth? Let the Finance Minister address these questions. How come the corporate houses own the majority of the wealth of this nation? These are the issues which we need to address. Government talked about reservation. If there can be reservation in the public sector, why can't it be extended to the private sector. Agriculture is in deep crisis. You are not setting up a farmers' income commission to study their

problems and you talk about doubling the income of farmers. You are not giving farmers the Minimum Support Price for crops. Please implement the recommendations of Swaminathan Commission. If we do not address the agrarian crisis in an earnest and sincere manner, we cannot retrieve our economy. There is a need for reviewing the present economic policies pursued by the Government.

PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: This Government likes to break new records. The employment generation in 2015, 2016 and in 2017 hit a low. Employment generation is negative in a majority of the sectors. When concerns were expressed about job losses in the formal sector, it was stated that companies bringing down their employment is a very good sign as more and more young people wanting to be entrepreneurs. But, look at the state of entrepreneurship under this Government. The MUDRA Scheme supposed to give Rs.10 lakhs in loans to every entrepreneur. But its average loan is Rs.44,000. As far as Start-up Mission is concerned a survey has been carried out and as per the report, eighty per cent people said that they are not benefited from this Mission. Government was suggested that it should focus on textiles and leather because they have huge job creation potential. But demonetization along with the hasty implementation of GST devastated the textile sector. Cattle slaughter rules disrupted the leather industry. Agriculture and construction is also in deep distress. IT is seeing lay-offs. Gross fixed capital formation in the private sector is in deep trouble and the Government is not doing anything about it. Government has demonetized job creating medium, small and micro enterprises. Entrepreneurs have to shut down their businesses and job seekers have become discouraged. People are going to ask this Government that question in 2019 and they will have no answer to that.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: As per Morgan Stanley Report, 6 thousand entrepreneurs have migrated from the country. I would like to know whether they have to migrate because of harassment by Government Departments. The prices of crude oil are decreasing in the world. I want to know how much of its percentage is being passed on to consumers.

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

**ERRATA TO THE SUPPLEMENT TO SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE
DATED 2nd JANUARY, 2018**

Page No.	Line No.	Correction
159	11	Read 'lakhs' as 'lakh'.
159	17	Delete 'to' before 'the farmers'
160	1	Delete 'would' after 'you'.