

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Friday, December 06, 2019 / Agrahayana 15, 1941 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Need to Provide Social Protection and Security to Workers Engaged in Hazardous Jobs in Unorganized Sector

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: A number of provisions have been made in the Constitution about providing protection to the rights of workers, labourers, deprived persons, women and children. My subject is related to giving protection on humanitarian ground to the workers of unorganized sector who perform same work as others in other fields. The labourers working in the unorganized sector do not get protection. They perform their duty in dangerous situations. Many people also die doing their job. They do not receive any kind of compensation. Their families also do not get support. Therefore, all labourers working in unorganized sector should also get the facilities available to labourers working in other sectors. I demand the Central Government that people working in such unorganized sectors be provided full protection, compensation and opportunities to lead a respectable life.

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

(Shri Jose K. Mani, Shri M. Shanmugam, Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha and Shrimati Kahkashan Perween associated.)

2. Need to Give Bharat Ratna to Pandit Raghunath Murmu of Santhali Samaj

SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Today is a historic day for me that I am going to speak in Santhali language for the first time in this Upper House. I belong to Santhali community of Odisha state and Santhali is my mother tongue. The inventor of the 'Ol Chiki' script of this language and revered leader of Santhal Society, Pandit Raghunath Murmu, was born in the year 1905 in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. He has been awarded the status of a religious and cultural leader in the society. In the year 1925, he invented the 'Ol Chiki' script. The 'Mayurbhanj Adivasi Mahasabha' conferred upon him the title of 'Guru Gomke' or 'Great Teacher'. His contribution to keep Santhali Society united in unison and to the development of language and literature is remarkable. His birthday has been declared a voluntary holiday (swaichhik avakash) in the state of Odisha. There is also a medical college in his name in Mayurbhanj district. I request the Government that Pandit Raghunath Murmu be conferred the title of Bharat Ratna.

(Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha associated.)

3. Need to Formulate A Comprehensive Scheme to Stop Child Labour

SHRI P.L. PUNIA: According to the report of the International Labor Organization, there are 15 crore 20 lakh child labourers all over the world. About 7 to 8 crore children in India are deprived of free and compulsory education. Among them about 1 crore are working as labourers. Thousands of children are being brought to India from Nepal and Bangladesh every year through trafficking. The number of girls is highest among domestic child labourers whereas the number of boys is highest in factories. Many schemes are being run for the upliftment of child labourers in India and many laws have been enacted but it is not being banned completely. I want to request the Government that a comprehensive

action plan should be made for the upliftment of child labourers and the schemes made for their rehabilitation, education and bringing them in the mainstream be implemented properly.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

4. Need for Special Focus Status to States Facing Natural Disasters

DR. SASMIT PATRA: I stand to demand Special Focus Status for the States facing natural calamities. The cyclone Fani, devastated Odisha this year. The total damage and loss was to the tune of rupees twenty-four thousand crores and the recovery needed rupees thirty thousand crores. Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal are the four States which face the maximum brunt of natural disasters in the country over the past century. A special focus is required for such states. In a meeting with the Prime Minister and NITI Aayog Chief Minister of Odisha suggested that States hit by natural calamities, for a specific period of time, should be treated as special-focussed States and be provided benefits which accrue to a Special Category State till such time that they are able to recover from the economic losses that they have suffered. I urge the Government to consider the suggestion and these States be declared as 'Special Focus States'.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Need to Celebrate 'Mahila Suraksha Divas' to Ensure Protection of Women

SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: The incidents that are taking place with women these days are very tragic. There has been some shortcomings in our society, due to which such incidents are not stopping. Despite the Government taking measures for women's safety, such incidents are not coming to an end. The Government should decide one day or one week for 'Women's Safety Day' or 'Women's Safety Week', on the lines of Teacher's Day', 'Doctor's Day', 'Father's Day' etc., during which right from headquarters to panchayats and villages and in all ministries it should

be celebrated as 'Women's Safety Day' or 'Women's Safety Week', which would create fear in the minds of people committing such odious act. I request the Government to celebrate 'Women's Safety Day' or 'Women's Safety Week' for the safety of women.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

6. Non-Release of MPLADS Funds for 2019-20

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: The MPLADS funds are always released late and this time, especially for my state Gujarat, the MPLADS fund of the year 2019-20 has not yet been released. Members of Rajya Sabha sanction grants within the entire state. Many of us are retiring in the month of April, 2020. Such a report is published that the Members of Rajya Sabha could not use their entire money for none of our fault, because as early the Collector or the departments which are in the system ask for the completion report from there and send the same here, the money is released only after that. I request that the fund of retiring Members, especially my money, be released. Not a single paisa has been released for the year 2019-20 so far. I request that a full installment of Rs 5 crore should be released by the coming January so that the work can be completed and we may avoid a negative image of ourselves.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

7. Need for Double-Lining and Change in Timings of Lichchavi Express

SHRI SAKALDEEP RAJBHAR: Baliya, Deoria, Mau and Ghazipur are backward districts. Some of the trains running on the route from Bhatni to Varanasi do not have a halt on Bilthra Road railway station, the highest revenue generating railway station. Travellers from many tehsils falling under Baliya district come to Bilthra Road railway station to avail the facility of railway. Due to these reasons, Bilthra Road railway station of district Baliya ranks first in the rail revenue. But the building of Bilthra Road railway station is in a very dilapidated condition. No waiting room is available for MPs and people's representatives. I want to draw the attention of

the Government towards a long pending demand of adding an AC coach containing First A.C. and Second A.C. compartments in Lichhvi Express. I am myself one among the MPs who board on train from this station and honorable Deputy Chairman also take the train from this station. The only train from this station to Delhi is Lichhavi Express. But it does not have the facility of first AC and from the security point of view all the MPs travel 150 kilometers to Varanasi or Gorakhpur to take the train. This results in wastage of time as well as loss of money. The travelling time of the trains between Bhatni and Aurihar is much more as there is a single rail-line. Hence, this rail-line should be doubled.

(Shri Neeraj Shekhar associated.)

8. Alleged Derogatory Reference to Mahatma Gandhi in Class Tenth English Text Book in Madhya Pradesh

SHRI SANJAY SINGH: In Madhya Pradesh, derogatory words have been used in a book about the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. I was conveyed by a person that a book in English for High School in Madhya Pradesh has described the characteristics of 'Subudhi' and 'Kubuddhi'. Negative things has been written in it and the same has been comparad to Mahatma Gandhi Ji. On the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary, the government of our country is organizing programmes across the country about his views. On the other hand, the killer of the Father of the Nation is glorified somewhere. Strict action should be taken against the guilty persons in this matter. Today, Gandhiji's ideas need to be spread all over the country.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Lack of Welfare Benefits to People of Chit Mohal in West Bengal

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: I would like to draw attention to a very sensitive issue about some of the enclaves, known as Chit Mohal in Bengal, in India and in Bangladesh. In accordance with the consent made between India and Bangladesh during Prime Minister,

Shri Narendra Modi's visit to Bangladesh, Bangladesh enclaves in India and Indian enclaves in Bangladesh shall stand physically transferred to each other country. There are 111 Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and 51 Bangladeshi enclaves in India, which are to be exchanged. The Prime Minister of our country and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh entered into the Agreement that all the enclaves may be transferred. But some problems still existed in Chitmahal area. Still the border between India and Bangladesh is highly critical from the point of view of the bilateral relationship. The enclaves have already been transferred but the boundary between India and Bangladesh has not yet been settled. As a result of this, some confusion is still existing and people from this side are going to that side without any hesitation.

10. Need to Reserve 25 per Cent Seats in National Institutes for Local State Students

SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Earlier education was State's subject but later this was brought under the Concurrent List. Admissions to premier educational institutions such as IIT, IIM, AIIMS, etc. are taken through centralised examinations like NEET, JEE, GMAT etc. But the students who hail from rural areas are finding it very difficult to compete with the students from urban areas. I would like to give an example of my own State, Karnataka where several reputed central institutes are located. The local students of the state do not get admission in these institutes. Due to highly competitive Central examinations, students from rural and semi-rural areas are finding it very difficult to crack these national level exams. Hence, I request to reserve 25 per cent of seats at the earliest in these institutes for local State students and help the needy students.

(Shri Jose K. Mani and Shri Rajmani Patel associated.)

11. Inadequacy of Farmer Loan Waivers

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: I want to put forth my views about to the farmers and fishermen society of Maharashtra. Banks do not give them the required loan. A large number of farmers have committed suicide in Maharashtra from 2015 to 2018. Eight farmers commit suicide every day. The government is not doing

anything to save these farmers. There is a huge water problem, so the demand for tankers has increased in a big way. Sometimes there is a famine in Maharashtra and sometimes it rains a lot. Due to this crops are destroyed. This affects the production of mango, cashew nut. Fishermen society and farmers should be given immediate help. The central government should meet the demands of the Maharashtra government.

12. Need to Remember the Importance of Air India on International Aviation Day on 7th December

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: 7th December is celebrated as the International Civil Aviation day. Studies show that every 100 rupees spent on air transport contributes to 325 rupees worth of benefits and every 100 direct jobs in air transport result in 610 jobs in the economy. In India, aviation is synonyms with our national carrier, Air India. It continues to connect India to the rest of the world. Today, the carrier travels to over 100 destinations across five continents. If it is privatized, Indians will also be forced to opt for foreign carriers to travel abroad. At the domestic level, it connects several remote locations that are not considered profitable by most airlines. It was the present regime in 2013 which opposed to move to privatise Air India. We appeal to the Government to stop the process of privatization and restore the faith of our people in the Maharaja.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

13. Quality of Education in the Country

SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: In 2019 CBSE Class-XII Examination, a number of students got 90 per cent to 100 per cent marks. The entire focus of education is on studying by heart, learning by rote and getting percentages. Undoubtedly, the CBSE has done a good job in terms of conducting the examinations. But I think, this entire system of teaching, curricula, education is completely wrong. Every parent wants the child to make money. So, the problem starts at home and the child is sent to a coaching centre at the age of two-and-a-half or three years for getting admission to the nursery class. If thousand children apply for admission to the nursery class, only fifty

get admission. The children are supposed to take them down without missing a coma or a full-stop. Ultimately, the child gets hundred per cent marks. We need to have radical reforms in our education system where the child is allowed to dream for himself. There has to be a radical change of thinking from families, from educational system.

(Shrimati Kahkashan Perween and Shri Jose K. Mani associated)

14. Need to Enhance Efficiency of Indian Railways

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS: The CAG Report has stated recently that the Indian Railways recorded an operating ratio of 98.44 per cent in financial year 2017-18. It means that to earn Rs.100, government is spending Rs.98.44. The operating ratio would also have risen up to 102.66 per cent. This amply shows the picture that the current Government has systematically managed to ruin yet another PSU. The Railways is borrowing heavily from the Government for capital expenditure, which will further complicate its financial situation. There are multiple reforms that the Railways need to undertake now. Issues that the CAG report has flagged off needs to be tackled urgently, like irregular multiple bookings on the same privilege pass. The Government needs to get its priorities right. The Railways has reported losses amounting to several crores. Therefore, it is imperative that the Government directs its focus on the Railway which is lifeline of the common Indian before all is lost.

(Shri K.T.S. Tulsi associated.)

SPECIAL MENTIONS

1. Demand for Installation of Platform Screen Doors in Delhi Metro to Prevent Suicide

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: The Delhi Metro has become a new hotspot for suicides. DMRC is by far the largest Metro network in India. Each day DMRC caters to over 22 lakh passengers. The Delhi Metro has installed barricades at a lot of metro stations. It has not been expanded yet. Data shows that most suicides were attempted on the

Blue Line. Installing these doors at operational stations is an extremely challenging task. Metro operations continue from 5AM to 1AM. In order to prevent loss of life, it is important to install barricades across the metro.

2. Demand to Restructure the PM-KISAN Yojana

PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: India is experiencing an economic slowdown across sectors. There is a slump in demand, income, investment and employment. The rural economy is most severely affected. Rural India needs more attention. In the last two years, agriculture's contribution to GDP growth has halved to 6.5 per cent and rural unemployment rates have doubled. To deal with rural distress, the PM-KISAN Yojana needs to be made more effective. The annual transfer of Rs. 6,000 per family is well below the poverty-line. The PM-KISAN yojana needs to be redesigned to enhance its impact the following ways: (i) the limit of Rs. 6,000 must be revised upwards, (ii) tenant farmers and sharecroppers should be included as beneficiaries under the PM-KISAN yojana and (iii) women agriculturists and their challenges must be given special attention. Such measures would revive rural demand, boost consumption, prevent people from falling into poverty and help revive the economy in a humane and inclusive manner.

3. Demand to Include Indian Cultural Heritage in New Education Policy

DR. SONAL MANSINGH: The importance of Indian culture has been recognized for centuries. With passing of time, through education, there has been a view of heavy apathy or negativity in this matter which has a profound impact on cultural heritage and social values. It is astonishing that no person from the art-culture sector has been included in the committee formed by the Ministry of Education to formulate a new education policy. Therefore, my special request and suggestion is that in the new education policy, the knowledge of system of India's centuries-old cultural heritage should be given to the education system and coming generations may be benefitted with it.

OBSERVATION BY THE CHAIR

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: On 22nd November, 2019, the first day allotted for transaction of Private Members' Legislative Business, a Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2019 (Insertion of a new article 14A and omission of article 44) was listed for introduction in the name of Shri Narayan Lal Panchariya. Before I could call the name of Shri Panchariya to move for leave to introduce the Bill, Shri K.K. Ragesh raised a point of order stating that the Bill was against the basic structure of the Constitution and secularism and, therefore, could not be introduced in the House. My observation to his point of order was that 'your point is taken and I would come to this'. Subsequently, when I called Shri Panchariya to move his motion for introduction of the Bill, it was observed that he was not present in the House. Therefore, there was no motion before the House for introduction of the Bill.

Rule 67 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha provides that if a motion for leave to introduce a Bill is opposed, the Chairman after permitting, if he thinks fit, a brief explanatory statement from the Member who moves the motion and from the Member who opposes the motion, without further debate, put the question before the House for a decision. As per well established convention of the House, which has been reiterated time and again by various Presiding Officers through their rulings, the Chair has never taken upon himself the responsibility of deciding whether a Bill is Constitutional or ultra vires. It is for the House to take a decision in the matter by voting either in favour of or rejecting the introduction of the Bill. In the instant case, Shri Ragesh objected to the introduction of the Bill before a formal motion to introduce the Bill was moved in the House. As there was no formal motion before the House, the objection of Shri K.K. Ragesh was found to be premature and, therefore, infructuous. There does not seem to be any necessity, therefore, for going into the merits of his objection. However, I have been informed that Shri Panchariya has now withdrawn his Bill.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS

The following Bills were introduced:

1. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2018 (Substitution of new article for article 48A and amendment of article 51A).
2. The Nationalisation of Inter-State Rivers Bill, 2019.
3. The Right to Adequate Housing Bill, 2019.
4. The Mangrove Forests (Special Provisions) Bill, 2019.
5. The Victims of Flood Caused By Heavy Rains, Cyclones And Other Reasons (Rehabilitation And Welfare) Bill, 2019.
6. The Compulsory Periodical Desiltation of Dams, Reservoirs and Rivers Bill, 2019.
7. The Population Control Bill, 2019.
8. The E-Commerce (Regulation) Bill, 2019.
9. The Decarbonisation Bill, 2019.
10. The Old Delhi Conservation Authority Bill, 2019.
11. The Prohibition of Multi-digit Lotteries Bill, 2019.
12. The Hindu Shrines and Religious Places (Management And Regulation) Bill, 2019.
13. The Public Credit Registry of India Bill, 2019.
14. The Single-Use Plastic (Regulation) Bill, 2019.
15. The Prevention of Insult to the Father of the Nation and Other Icons of Freedom Movement Bill, 2019.
16. The Elder Persons (Care and Protection) Bill, 2019.
17. The Right to Breathe Clean Air Bill, 2019.

18. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2019.
19. The National Commission for Senior Citizens Bill, 2019.
20. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2019.
21. The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2019.
22. The Right to Information (Amendment) Bill, 2019.
23. The Right of Persons with Disabilities (Amendment) Bill, 2019.
24. The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (insertion of new sections 379A and 379B).
25. The Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2019.
26. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (insertion of new article 338C).
27. The Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2019.
28. The Sal Leaves Collectors and Traders' Welfare Bill, 2019
29. The State Reorganization Commission Bill, 2019.
30. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (amendment of article 16).
31. The National Commission for Food Grain Management Bill, 2019.
32. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (amendment of articles 217 and 224).
33. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (insertion of new article 44A and amendment of article 51A).

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017
(amendment of article 51A) - Contd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS, THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI), intervening in the discussion, said: I want to thank, in particular, Shri Prabhat Jha, for bringing this issue before this House through this Private Member's Bill. I want to thank the other eleven hon. Members. The reaction was, is swachhta, is the issue of sanitation, something that is so important that needs to be brought up in a speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort. If even our temples are not models of roominess and cleanliness, what can our self Government be. In terms of priorities that the Father of the Nation laid out, Swachhata in 1916 appeared a more important priority than freedom because this was the statement he made in 1916. I have absolutely no doubt that successive Governments have accorded priority to the issue of cleanliness, Swachhata and sanitation. But, what has happened in the period of five years. There would be difference of nuances because they all supported the objective and the implementing processes. . I want to acknowledge the work done under the Nirmal Bharat Scheme. The flagship programmes of the Prime Minister which my Ministry has the privilege of dealing with apart from the Swachh Bharat Mission are Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, AMRUT Scheme, HRIDAY, etc. In addition, Sir, 36 States and Union Territories have been declared open defecation free. Rural areas of the country have self declared as open defecation free. In our urban space we have got the target of constructing 67 lakhs individual household toilets. But the success of these schemes will be mapped by the discernible behavioral change. The submission to the House is that this movement has transformed from the project of the government to the project of the people. This is the movement which has caught on. Fourteen crores citizens were involved in the swachta hi sewa campaign this year alone and this is testimony to the deep engagement that this process is having with the citizens. 66 lakh households have been provided with individual

household toilets in urban areas. We have also constructed more than three lakhs community toilet seats for the economically weaker sections. In areas where there is a real paucity of space there mobile toilets have been provided. Today the details of these toilets are publicly available. 58,000 toilets are available on Google maps across 2,500 cities. today, if a toilet is not maintained or if it is not usable, we are able to fix it through the use of technology. And, these complaints have decreased considerably. We were never going to be content. The first phase of the programme is being completed. The Prime Minister said that making India free from open defecation may be the best tribute on the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. As far as ODF status is concerned, except one State – all other States completed the work. Rural India is ODF. As far as urban India is concerned early new year we will be able to declare the entire country ODF based on third party verification. We wanted to carry this now on further. Merely using a toilet would not be enough to achieve the expected health impacts. ODF+ and ODF++ deal with fecal sludge and septage generated from toilets, so that they are safely transported and processed, so that our water bodies are not contaminated. During the discussion that took place on the 22nd, manual scavenging was referred. The Government has taken many steps in terms of manual scavenging. It has made the Acts to put a blanket prohibition on employment of manual scavenging and to address the dehumanising practice and to provide for rehabilitation of manual scavengers and their families. All work of rehabilitation of these people, providing them with mechanised cleaning equipment, is in progress. At this time, we are taking our sanitation cover of our urban from 32-35 per cent to 69 per cent so that the sewage is taken in closed pipes from the point where it is produced to the treatment plants. We are setting up STPs (sewage treatment plants) separately in new buildings, Efforts are being made to provide mechanical cleaning equipment to such people who were earlier in this profession by training them. I will monitor it personally, because it is urban phenomena, we will ensure that not a single death takes place like this. Dr. Amee Yajnik said that we are seeing celebrities with brooms, but we do not know where the collected garbage goes because we have not been provided

for a proper drainage system or sewage disposal system to see that this garbage is cleaned. There are three ways of doing this. One is to have sewage treatment plants, located where new facilities are coming up. Where all the waste is treated, where the water is treated, recycled for reuse, etc. The other is to take it in closed pipes to treatment centres. The third is in areas where sewage systems are not there to have those pits periodically cleaned and taken to treatment centres. About 58 per cent of the waste is now being scientifically processed. The Nirmal Bharat Scheme of the UPA was a limited scheme for the rural sector. The Swachh Bharat Mission covers the entire country, rural and urban areas. When there is large-scale pollution of rivers, when there is large-scale pollution of water bodies, when individual citizens indulge in practices which contribute to atmospheric pollution, the State has a very important role to play, because, then the State is able to coordinate and the State is able to provide the kind of corrective course, and, I think, the Swachh Bharat Mission is a classic example where the State took the initiative but, after that, it become a Jan Andolan. Under the 'Star-rating Initiative', 67 of our cities have been certified as three-star garbage-free and four cities have been certified as five-star garbage-free cities till date. We have been building the urban local body capacities through workshops, technical advisories so that they are able to deliver the components of the Swachh Bharat Mission on a mission mode. Digital solutions is a central part of the programme. About 1.55 crore citizens have downloaded the Swachhata App. and 1.62 crore complaints have been resolved with a 93 per cent resolution rate. The swachhta manch has recorded participation from more than eight crore citizens. Recently we have launched the Swachh Nagar App, which can record litter collection, transportation and final disposal of segregated waste. Having said this I would submit that Shri Prabhat Jha has done a great service by bringing this Private Member's Bill, but the Government has already working on all these and is in the process of completing this process. We are already 100 per cent open defecation free in the rural areas. As regards urban spaces too, we are almost there. I think they should withdraw this private members bill.

SHRI PRABHAT JHA, replying to the debate, said:

Many hon. members of the House have expressed their views on the Constitution Amendment Bill, 2017 proposed by me. I am happy that everyone expressed their views above politics on this constitutional amendment proposal. Cleanliness is the essence of life. The poorest of the poor also tries to be clean. When the Prime Minister tried in 2014, the country accepted it as a huge mass movement. Dr. Vikas Mahatme ji said that the people of the country will understand the fundamental duty by discussing the bill. In fact, I did not bring up the proposal for this reason that what the fundamental duty is. We have to understand the country. The country belongs to 130 crore citizens and their behaviour also builds India's image internationally. The rights should never be violated, but the duties should be fulfilled, the citizen should realize that this is my India, it is my duty to keep it clean. It is the duty of all of us to keep this India clean, I also thank Dr. Vikas Mahatme. Shri P.L. Punia ji had also praised Shri Bindeshwar Pathak who has worked in India. He spoke of a clean India. I request that we also stand by what you did. Cleanliness is the essence of life. So thank you for what you did. Cleanliness campaign is for everyone and so thank you for what you did. I did not make any difference in gender in the bill, in English there is He and She, but in Hindi it is the same form, so it was not my fault. In the proposal that I had made, it was with both emotions. My bill was originally in Hindi. Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha has said good things in a very meaningful way. Dr. Satyanarayana Jatia always gave his views on purity, cleanliness and purity in words filled with knowledge and philosophy. I am also especially grateful to him. Shri Rakesh Sinha gave a speech full of references to cleanliness, I also thank him. I thank the honourable members for presenting their views. It is true that construction of 8 crore toilets in the country is not a common phenomenon. Now 'cleanliness' will become a movement in India. If the government has done some good work then it should be accepted. This campaign started in the year 2014 and gradually became a mass movement. I propose to pass the Constitution Amendment Bill, 2017.

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

The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2014 - *Contd.*

SHRI RAKESH SINH, Continuing his unfinished speech dated 26.07.2019, said: This subject is very important for democracy as well as for the will to bring democracy. Other democratic countries are facing the same challenge which India is facing. Both number and narrative have equal place in democracy. Democracy is meaningful only when we try to abolish inequality and this is possible only when the political parties coming to the elections do not run only by the shackles of law. Politics is a process involving concerns, which keeps your soul out of the image and connects it to reality. Governance access to the common people is the biggest challenge in democracy. Recall the 1963 by-elections. That election was not for the ideology rather it was for the values. Both values and ideology should be healthy. To achieve the goal of equality the Modi government has worked to empower the last person of the society. I call the policies of Modi government as 'Wealth Equalizing Policy'. We have to see that equality should remain in democracy along with the rights. Earlier funds were misused in the elections to influence the politics. The interference of corporate houses in elections has increased. Shri Jayaprakash Narayan ji gave the slogan of 'Sampoorn Kranti'. This slogan was for change of system. Character and ideology are important. We cannot reform democracy by increasing the limits of funds. If the limit is to be increased, then we should increase the limit of our values. We must work always to improve the democracy. I represent the common man. I live for them and will die for them only. The process of demonetisation has been done to curb black money. If Indian democracy is to be made a successful democracy, then we have to restore our values again.

SHRI P.L. PUNIA: The spending limit set in this Bill is not correct. In Lok Sabha elections, the spending limit is fixed at 70 lakhs and for Vidhan Sabha elections it is 28 to 40 lakhs. There is discrepancy in this. Actually elections cost much more than the prescribed limit. There are also expenses in the name of political parties. There must be a practical limit and must be strictly enforced.

The system of distributing money should be stopped during elections. 'State Funding' was mentioned in the late Indrajit Gupta Committee report. Comparative hoarding of candidates should be installed by the government. Public meetings should be arranged by the government at key places. Maximum black money was used in the last election. Demonetisation was introduced to curb black money, but black money has increased. There has been a demand for the use of ballot paper in stead of EVMs in the elections. We should focus on that. The Bill should be amended and brought in some other way.

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: If there was no Constitution, I would not have been in the Rajya Sabha today. Now because of Baba Saheb, we have got the right to vote. Today, people of every category become MLAs and MPs and get representation in the Panchayats and the local bodies. As far as the spending limit in elections is concerned, according to the recommendation of the Indrajit Gupta Committee, there should be state funding on the part of the government so that even poor people can contest elections. You have brought this Bill, because crores of rupees are being misused in elections these days. Today it is said that EVM machines are tampered with. This is done by putting a chip in the EVMs. Therefore, our party has also taken the initiative to hold elections by using ballot papers. Even after 72 years of independence, there are many people who do not have a single representative in the Assemblies, in the Lok Sabha or in the Panchayats, because they do not get a chance due to money and muscle power. Just as there is a provision of reservation for the SCs, the STs and the OBCs in panchayats, similar provision of reservation should be made for them in the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha and the Assemblies. The media plays the biggest role in the election campaigning. But the media prints your news only when you pay them for paid-news. Media is very misused in the election campaigning. Finally, I would like to say that today defection is prevailing in the whole country, those who do not have sufficient number of MLAs, come to power. So, a thorough study should be conducted on this. The officials of the Election Commission work for the benefit of the ruling parties and in turn they are inducted into

several Commissions or they are offered MPs-MLAs tickets. It should be banned. In support of this Bill, I want to say that electoral reforms are possible only when the EVMs are removed and elections are conducted using ballot papers. Therefore, I support this Bill.

DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: The democracy of this country is gradually moving towards maturity and in these 70 years, our electoral system has been reformed from time to time. The democracy of our country remains exemplary for the world today. The transparency with which elections are held in this country is an example for the world today. The Election Commission has set a spending limit of Rs. 70 lakh for the elections. But I believe that elections cannot be fought only with money. If a political worker serves among the people, he does not require any additional resources. In a country like India, the limit of 70 lakh rupees is more than enough. This limit should be reduced, because mobilizing 70 lakh rupees is a difficult task for an ordinary worker and hence he fails to become a member of the Assembly or the Lok Sabha. We can garner support by informing the people about the achievements of the party and the welfare work done by the party. If this limit of election expenses is increased, many anomalies will arise. To receive donations, our government has given various political parties the right to collect money through electoral bonds. Service is important for politics. The current spending limit is sufficient to maintain the integrity of the democratic system. Increasing this limit will lead to increase the influence of black money in elections. Keeping in view the rising inflation, the Election Commission periodically reviews the prescribed limit and increases this limit as necessary. If a political worker goes among the people and solves their problems, then money and muscle power will not be required. His service, integrity and his transparency will be his greatest strength. Therefore, I strongly oppose this Bill.

SHRI G.V.L. NARASIMHA RAO: This Private Member Bill proposes that all caps on election expenditure for candidates must be removed. It is claimed that this will remove any kind of infirmities in the entire democratic process. I think this is a very dangerous

prescription to the problem of money power. Presently, the limit for Parliamentary constituencies for each candidate is Rs. 70 lakhs. In some States, it is Rs. 54 lakhs. For Assembly elections, it is Rs. 20 lakhs in smaller States and UTs, and Rs. 28 lakhs in other areas. One important point that needs to be noted is, what the Election Commission is prescribing is the legitimate expenditure for elections, which involves campaigning expenditure, public meetings, vehicles, publicity material, so on and so forth. Whereas, a large amount of money is spent in elections for illegitimate purposes. This problem is all-pervasive in many States in the southern region. The entire process of elections and democratic process has been vitiated over the last decades and we do not openly speak about this and find solutions. Rs.70 lakhs is the authorized expenditure. However, there is a lot of expenditure that people incur, but, for illegitimate purposes. It is really a matter of great tragedy. You cannot legitimise bribery. In Lok Sabha elections, in several constituencies in the southern part of the country, candidates have to spend Rs. 100 crores or Rs. 150 crores per constituency. This is a matter of great danger to our democracy. If you cannot spend Rs. 100 crores, being the minimum expenditure, or, Rs. 150 crores, you cannot even qualify as a candidate for many political parties. This has actually made people, who do not have that kind of resources, suffer. This is serious problem and and we cannot ignore it. If we can not talk about this, then we would be doing a greater disservice to our democracy. Bribery is rampant. In many States, candidates have really spoiled the electoral contest. But the verdict of the people is not influenced by money. It is not money that really matters. But, money is being spent lavishly in elections and this certainly is going to have a very negative impact. We have to fight this menace. I would certainly want this House to really take note of this problem so that we can really leave safer and better democracy for the future generations. There is a problem of paid news. Candidates have to spend money to the media for getting any kind of media coverage There are many places where this kind of malpractices are there. This is a problem and we should face it. If this is a legitimate expenditure, we should really make it legitimate. The Supreme Court clearly states that we can't allow money to be spent without any limits

as this will distort our democracy. Elections have to offer a footing of equality for all individuals and for all political parties. And the Election Commission is empowered to disqualify a candidate for three years. But, I can tell you that there would be hardly any candidate who had been disqualified although it is a very rampant malpractice. A disqualification to any political candidate can be a very negative impact; it can really deter people from indulging in malpractices. Also removing the cap will only make our elections a monetary race where people can bid based on their ability to contest elections. That will further diminish our democracy. Besides this, contesting elections in some States is more expensive. Certainly, the cost of living and the voter population is more in some areas. The geographic territory and terrains are difficult in some areas. So, keeping that in mind, there has to be a rationale way of estimating the cost of contesting elections. There used to be a tradition when you had political party cadres who would do everything on a voluntary basis, but today that spirit has gone. So, the cost of contesting elections has indeed gone up because in many places the parties have to actually incur huge costs in getting their cadres to actually work for them. So, the current limits may be relooked into. Also, the media publicity today has become imperative. So, a separate amount can be allocated for media publicity so that both the parties and the media organisations do not have to indulge in malpractices. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government and the Election Commission of India, let us not close our eyes to the realities on the ground. Let us all work together to really improve our democracy.

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Desh Deepak Verma,
Secretary-General.

rssynop@sansad.nic.in

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