

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, March 16, 2020 / Phalguna 26, 1941 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Existing Hurdles in Promotion of Renewable Energy in the Country

SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: India has been at the forefront of promoting renewable energy. Many of those States which have signed the Power Purchase Agreement are not honouring the agreement at all. We need about 120000 crores for implementing the rest of the solar energy projects. The banks are unwilling to provide the money to the companies. About the 70% of installed capacity of these companies is lying idle because the States refuse to purchase power on a day-to-day basis. There should be some kind of Central legislation and direction in this regard to pressurise the States to use this energy instead of energy produced by coal.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

2. Decreasing Forest Cover in the Country

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: The forest cover has increased by one per cent during the last two years but in the name of development, forest cover had decreased upto 1513 Sq.Kilo Meter in corresponding period mainly in north-eastern area.. Pollution related problem will increase. There should be at least 33% forest cover in every State. There will be adverse

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

affect on the employment of those who are dependent on forest for their livelihood. Jungle Mafia is cutting the forests in the name of development. The Government must ensure that at least there should be 33% forest cover in every state.

(Dr. Sasmit Patra, Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas and Dr. Amar Patnaik associated)

3. Need to Forgo Cancellation Charges in Railways/Airlines in the Wake of COVID-19

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Corona virus has become pandemic one and the entire humanity is struggling against it. India is also affected with this virus. It has disturbed the normal day-to-day life. School, colleges would remain close till March-end. People are cancelling their travelling programmes. But the Airlines and Railways are charging the cancellation fee from the passengers. It is urged that the Government should look into the matter urgently and instruct the Airlines and Railways to not to charge cancellation fee from the passengers in the wake of Corona Virus.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

4. Financial Loss to Coal Bearing States due to Non-revision of Royalty on Coal

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand are those States which produce 80% coal. Coal mines put strain on water resources and it affects the forestry also. Large scale displacement also takes place in these States. As per MMDR Act, royalty on production needs to be revised every three year but since 2012, it has not be revised so far. So the coal producing states are suffering losses. Cess on coal has also been increased. Odisha Government is repeatedly requesting the Centre to give share in Cess but the Central Government has not done so far. Now the income tax is being imposed on interest accrued on District Mineral Fund also. State Government requested to exempt this tax because this fund is utilised for development work. Therefore my request to the Government is that the coal royalty should be revised.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Delay in Wage Payment under the MNREGA

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: In the present economic scenario we should have more of investment in scheme like MNREGA which will

have positive effect on the economy. Presently MGNREGA wages are lower than minimum agricultural wages across the states. Considering the fact that the Government is going to announce MGNREGA Wage rate for the year 2020-21, it is requested that it should be Rs.600/- per day in accordance with 7th CPC and the Government should also allocate supplementary budget to the programme for 2020-21 by increasing the same.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

6. Difficulties Being Faced due to Implementation of Fast-Tag

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV: MPs have to show their identity cards on toll plazas while travelling on national highways and sometimes the official posted there do not accept identity card of MPs and they have to pay toll tax. There are huge boards on toll plazas everywhere where it is clearly shown the categories to which toll is exempted and MPs are also in exempted category. Fast tags have been allotted but at some toll plazas these are not functioning properly. Roads are not in good conditions. It is suggested that one time toll-tax may also be collected at the time of registration of the vehicle to solve all sorts of problems so that roads may remain in good conditions.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

7. Need to Extend Concession on Loans to Farmers under KCC (Kisan Credit Cards) till its Expiry

SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Kisan Credit Card is given to the farmers in accordance with the acreage. The duration of this card is five years. Farmers gets loan on this card at 7% interest. No farmer gets loan more than Rs. 3 lakhs despite credit limit of more than that. He has to repay it by 30th June now instead of 31st March. He has to take loans from money lenders to repay the loan of Credit card under the pressure of Banks. In some cases when farmers are not in a position to repay it, they commit suicide. The Government is requested to raise the loan limit upto Rs. 5 lakhs. He should be allowed to continue his transaction upto five years instead of one year as duration of the card is five years.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

8. Need for SC/ST Post Matric Scholarships to Students Admitted under Management quota/Spot Counselling

SHRI P.L. PUNIA: SC/ST Students on a large scale are deprived by post-matric scholarship by the orders of the Central Government. As per the new law, they will not be given such scholarship in case they are admitted by counselling but they have got less than 60% marks in class 12. Till now they were required to get 40% marks in class 12 and their family income should be up to maximum 2.5 lakh per annum. Raising of cut-off percentage of marks from 40% to 60% is not in the interest of SC/ST. It is requested that both the rules be taken back in the interest of SC/ST community.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Need to Address Difficulties Being Faced by Satras (Vaishnav Monasteries) in Assam due to Encroachment and Finances

SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Social and cultural organisations play an important role in our society. These organisations are working for centuries. We should conserve and propagate them. Satras were set up by Shankar Devji in Assam in 15th Century. This is a popular organisation. Even the Colonial rulers also propagated this organisation. The rulers of Assam gave several acres of land to this organisation. Now the condition of this organisation is deplorable. 80% of its land is encroached by the people. It is requested to save this organisation from illegal encroachment to save the culture of Assam.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

10. Need to Eliminate Hunger and Chronic Malnutrition among Children and Adolescents

PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: We are ranked at 102 out of 117 countries in global hunger index. As per the survey of Ministry of Health children below 6 and 23 months receive minimum acceptable diet. More than half of all women of reproductive age and children under five years are anaemic. Pradhan Mantri Poshan Abiyan was launched three years back. Iron and folic acid tablets should be consumed with Vitamin C tablets. We need to educate the families in rural areas about this. Existence of Malnutrition and obesity is found among school going children. It is urged that NCERT should include in its curriculum the method to improve

knowledge about nutrition. It should be widely advertised also. We have to bring behavioural changes also for this.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

11. Sub-Urban Rail Project for Bengaluru

SHRI G.C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: The project of sub-urban train for Bengaluru has been announced in the recent Budget with an estimated cost of Rs. 18,600 crore, but no Budget allocation has been made so far for this purpose. Further delay in start of the work will lead to cost overrun. Therefore, the Government should release the fund for this project as early as possible.

12. Damage to Crops Due to Hailstorm in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: In most parts of Uttar Pradesh, crops of farmers have been destroyed due to hailstorm, rain and thunderstorms. Specific cooperation from the Central Government is expected in this disaster. An inspection team of the Central Government should visit in each district to assess the loss. The Government should also issue strict instructions to the concerned crop insurance companies to ensure immediate compensation to the farmers.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Uttar Pradesh has received heavy rain fall in the month of March and just two-three days ago, hailstorm has also been witnessed. This has resulted into huge loss of crops of the farmers in almost all the districts. The Government should conduct a survey for the losses suffered by farmers and should provide them immediate relief as well as appropriate compensation.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Yesterday, during my visit to many villages of Delhi, I saw how untimely rains have brought devastation for crops, which were ready to be harvested within 15 days. Thousands of families in Delhi cultivate several acres of land. I demand from the Delhi Government to give compensation to these farmers at the rate of Rs. 60 thousand per acre.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

13. Need to Expedite the Setting up of the South Coast Railway (SCoR) Zone in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: An announcement was made by the Railway Minister with regard to the decision of formation of South Coast Railway with its Headquarters at Visakhapatnam. But, there is an inordinate

delay in implementing that decision. The new zone has got the potential of becoming India's most profitable zone. I request to kindly expedite the process of setting up of the South Coast Railway Zone and enable the commencement of its operations at the earliest.

(Shri Jairam Ramesh associated.)

14. Concern over Pending Cases in the High Court and Subordinate Courts in Karnataka

SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Karnataka has about 18 lakhs pending cases in various courts. Thousands of fresh cases are also filed every month. 36 per cent vacant posts of judges are in High Court and 20 per cent in lower courts of Karnataka. I urge the Union Government to fill up the vacant posts in Karnataka Courts for delivering speedy justice to the citizens.

(Shri B.K. Hariprasad, Shri P. Wilson and Shri M. Shanmugam associated.)

15. Need for One Nation - One Election

MS. SAROJ PANDEY: In order to strengthen democratic traditions in the country, we form new governments through various elections. But, these elections to the States and the Centre take place at different times. For conducting these elections, resources and funds on a very large scale are used. If the elections of the Centre and all the states are held simultaneously, it will help in saving of the resources of the country and hence, we would be able to utilize the resources for the development of the country in a better way.

(Dr. Sasmit Patra and Shri S.R. Balasubramoniyan associated.)

16. Need for an Integrated Plan to Fight against Corona Virus

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: One of the ways to prevent the spread of coronavirus is to wash hands for twenty seconds. There are different ways to wash our hands. Staying at home is another way. The third simple way of prevention is to cover while you sneeze or cough. The idea is that all of us have to spread the word. Today, we, in the Parliament, need to take that example to spread this word.

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Sanitation of bank ATMs is extremely important. Second point is regarding social distancing. The capacity of testing labs needs to be increased. The PP suits required for doctors should be

made available to district level hospitals. Terms of screening are not there at the domestic arrivals on the airports. A sensitization session for MPs in the Parliament will be useful.

DR. VIKAS MAHATME: A rumor is being circulated that eating chicken spreads the corona virus disease, although it has not been proved in any way. Therefore, people who eat chicken, can eat, without fear of this disease. We should also keep in mind that gathering of large number of people at religious places too can spread infection of this disease. Therefore, it would be better if we remain stay within our homes. Non-governmental organizations and private practitioners should also be involved in the fight against coronavirus.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: The Parliament of India is a highly sensitive place in view of the risk of corona virus infection, as people from all over the country come here. Therefore, I suggest that a system of screening at all entrance gates of the Parliament should be in place.

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: I would like to know from the Government whether the Government is willing to adjourn the Session early in view of risk of infection involved in gathering of Members in the Parliament complex during the session. They can pass the Budget by bringing an Appropriation Bill and then, the Parliament can be adjourned.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

SPECIAL MENTIONS

1. Demand to Provide Farming Incentives to Farmers in Tamil Nadu

SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: In Tamil Nadu, agriculture is the worst hit sector due to water scarcity. There is urgent need for the Union Government to take drastic steps to improve the conditions of farmers in the State. Farmers spend nearly 80 per cent of their income in planting and transporting crops and remaining 20 per cent in repaying debts and at the end, they remain empty handed. Need of the hour is to provide all necessary incentives to the farmers. I appeal to the Government to sanction ten thousand crore rupees to Tamil Nadu to provide farming incentives to farmers.

(Shri A. K. Selvaraj associated.)

2. Demand for Setting of Question Papers in All Indian Languages for the Civil Services Examination

SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ: It is claimed that candidates appearing in the Civil Services Examination are allowed to write answers in the languages listed in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. However, the reality is different. It is expected that the candidates should read and understand analytical questions either in Hindi or English in the Main Examination and then write their answers in their mother tongue. In Preliminary Examination, the candidates are provided with question and answer options only in English and Hindi. The whole gamut of Civil Services Examination is so structured that non-Hindi speaking candidates are marginalised. I urge upon the Government to restructure the Civil Services Examination and have question papers set in all the Indian languages to make level-playing field for all the youths in the country.

3. Demand to Expedite Construction Work and Allocate Sufficient Funds for Setting up of Permanent Campuses of Educational Institutions in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: The construction work of permanent campus of Central University, Anantapur and Tribal University, Vizianagaram is yet to start. I urge upon the Central Government to direct the concerned Departments to start construction work of permanent campuses of these educational institutions. I request the Central Government to allocate sufficient funds to other educational institutions also so that their work of construction of their permanent campus could be completed at the earliest.

4. Demand to Confer Bharat Ratna on Mirza Ghalib

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: I urge the government to confer the Bharat Ratna award to Mirza Ghalib posthumously. With his new style of Ghazal, Ghalib had introduced the philosophy and truths of life in poetry. His poetry is timeless. In view of his great contribution to the field of literature, I request that the Bharat Ratna award be conferred upon him. By doing this, we will honor ourselves, not Mirza.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Demand to Revise the Central Share of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (A.I.B.P.) Projects as per 2016 Prices to Reduce the Financial Burden on States

SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: Eight major and medium irrigation projects have been identified for completion by 2019 under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). The Ministry of Water Resources has approved the cost estimate of these projects as on 1st April, 2012. At 2016 prices, the revised estimates of these eight projects is much higher. If this is taken into account, the States will have to effectively bear about 75 per cent of the revised cost including the cost of establishment from State share instead of 40 per cent as envisaged under the scheme. The Government of India has approved the cost estimate of these projects at 2016 prices for sanction of loan from Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) to finance the State share. However, the Central share has not been revised. Government of India should revise the Central share at the 2016 prices and finance the Central share of the projects as per 2016 prices including the cost of establishment so as to lessen the financial burden of the States.

(Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)

GOVERNMENT BILL

The Central Sanskrit Universities Bill, 2019- Contd.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: This Bill converts three existing Sanskrit Institutions into Central Universities. Sanskrit has always been the monopoly of a few and that is a matter of great sadness and tragedy for India. We have to make this monopoly of the few into the treasure of the many. Sanskrit has enriched Indian languages and many Indian languages have contributed to Sanskrit. This magnificent language has also been the instrument of caste oppression, caste discrimination and caste subjugation. Sanskrit is not spoken by many people. It has been the language of priests and courts. Since Sanskrit is part of our cultural legacy, we take pride in it. During last three years, the Government spent Rs.640 crores on the popularization of Sanskrit. It spent Rs.24 crores on Tamil, Rs.3 crores on Telugu and Rs.3 crores on Kannada. No money was spent on Malayalam and Odia. These are the six classical languages of India. Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia and Telugu are national languages. These are spoken by millions of people. We may not like this, but, this is a fact that historically Sanskrit has always been the elite language. I wish this Government speaks

in the language of the people and spends more money for Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Odia and Malayalam. There are three Sanskrit institutions in the country. These are- Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha in Tirupati, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha in Delhi and Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan in New Delhi. I would request the Government to name one of these institutions after Pāṇini and another after Amarasimha. These three Central Universities will add to the forty Central Universities that are under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. However, the track record of managing the Central Universities is pathetic in the last few years. Divest your resources so that these Universities can be run independently and professionally. I think, this is a step in the right direction.

***SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY: (Spoke in Sanskrit.)**

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: I support this Bill. Our country's native languages have finished due to the use of foreign languages. There was a time when Sanskrit was spoken. All our Shastras, Puranas and Vedas etc. are in Sanskrit itself. When it comes to speaking in Sanskrit, it becomes a very difficult task. This happens due to lack of practice. The good thing is that Government have made a provision to make three Deemed Universities as Central Universities. It has made many clauses in the Bill. When the law becomes heavy, we deviate from its original aim. You have also made provision for appointments of teachers. The first category of appointments is that of a Lecturer. It is followed by Associate Professor, Assistant Professor and Professor. You have not made any provision for the appointment of Lecturer therein. Section 38 of the Bill talks about the Student Council. My suggestion to you is that instead of the Student Council, name it Student Union. The entire Union must be chosen by the students. Colleges and universities were the nurseries of politics. Many big leaders and people have come out of these universities. I suggest that the Student Council should have a Head elected by the students instead of the Dean. I consider both Indian culture and Sanskrit as integral. Sanskrit has been a very advanced language. Therefore, I support this Bill. There is provision of Yoga in it. Yoga is taught at the elementary level. There should be no separate provision for that. There is mention of yoga in it, today we see that uneducated people do yoga. The largest centre for surviving Sanskrit has been Varanasi, Kashi. Its condition is not good. Banaras Hindu University is a central university. People used to go to Kashi, Varanasi. Therefore, focus on Kashi also.

*** Synopsis of speech delivered by hon'ble Member in Sanskrit will be published separately as supplement.**

***SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA: (Spoke in Sanskrit.)**

SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: I support this bill. This bill will give a boost to our civilization and culture. Sanskrit is associated with culture, many cultures and many civilizations took birth and disappeared but India's culture and civilization is still surviving. Whoever preserves his civilization and culture, he develops. All the religious texts are written in Sanskrit. I would like to remember Mandan Mishra and Bharti ji. Be it Vikramshila University or Nalanda University, they have always shown light of knowledge. Darbhanga Sanskrit University should also be given the status of Central University. India always sets the example of unity in diversity. The Government of India has plans to open ten minority Central Universities across India. Mazharul Haque Arabic and Farsi University is in Patna, Bihar, it should also be given the status of Central University.

SHRI V. LAKSHMIKANTHA RAO: I support this Bill. We are also happy to note that the three Deemed-to-be Sanskrit Universities are being upgraded as Central Universities. This language, inspite of having gone through a lot of difficulties and with other languages dominating, is surviving fully. In Shimoga district, there is a village by the name Mathur, where everybody speaks Sanskrit. At such time, the Central Government has come forward to extend the Central status to these universities, I congratulate the Government and the Ministry for this. In the Bill, there is a mention of Authorities of University. The powers and duties of the court such as reviewing the policies of the University and suggesting measures for its development may be kept with the Executive Council than forming a separate court. There is one amendment which is for the benefit of the students, since the Executive Council will not be meeting so frequently, it will be difficult for the student to get justice. It would be better if we give this authority to the Vice-Chancellor. One, Sribhashyam Vijayasarathi, who has been very recently awarded 'Padmashree' We have got many scholars like him in our country who speak Sanskrit and who know about Sanskrit. They are to be involved.

SHRI K.K. RAGESH: The Central Sanskrit Universities Bill, 2019, seeks to convert three deemed universities into three Central universities Sanskrit was the monopoly of a very few and it was denied to a

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vast majority of the population. The Government is giving so much of importance to Sanskrit why the same importance, same prominence, is not given to the other national languages. No fund so far has been allocated for Malayalam language. It is highly objectionable. In Kendriya Vidyalayas in Kerala, I am sorry to say, it is so sad that Malayalam is not being taught. I have been repeatedly raising this issue in this House itself. The thing is that Malayalam is not being taught compulsorily. Malayalam is not at all taught and Sanskrit is made compulsory. That is the basic issue. I am reminding the Government about the three-language formula which was enunciated and adopted in 1968. Even that three-language formula is not implemented. It is something very discriminatory. All other national languages should be given prominence and no language should be discriminated.

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM: There are six classical languages. The Government is obsessed with Sanskrit language at the cost of other classical languages. The Government spent in the last three years Rs.643 crore for Sanskrit but only Rs.22 crore for Tamil. The Government is trying to impose languages like Sanskrit and Hindi on the people who are not willing. The whole research is based on herbal plants and treatment is provided for each and every disease. If you take Thirukkural, there is no parallel in any language as far as philosophy is concerned, We demanded establishment of a museum to display the material recovered from the archaeological site. In the Central Institute of Tamil Language established in Chennai, there are many posts lying vacant. Central Government is initiating many steps to improve the central language or to make it of international standards at the global level. No attention is paid to the development of Tamil language. The discriminatory attitude of the Government in developing a language which is not spoken by the masses and ignoring other classical languages is very unfortunate. One Central University for Tamil Language be established in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: I stand to support this Bill, which aims to promote and propagate Sanskrit, which is known as devabhasha or devavani. Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth at Thirupati is also being given Central University status through the proposed legislation. All the three deemed universities which are now being given Central University status may adopt at least ten villages. We may have some sort of a scheme where every MP is mandated to adopt just two villages to promote and propagate Sanskrit. We could mandate MPs to adopt two more villages so that 1,600 villages could be covered with Sanskrit-speaking people and this could go on. We are getting Sanskrit news in public broadcasting, but not in the private

television channels. There are so many vacant posts in RSV, Thirupati. I support this Bill.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sanskrit is the language which has great history and tradition. In that language, great debates took place in the ancient history of the country. That shows how great Indian tradition is, which is totally one-sided. The Indian tradition, the Indian history and the Indian culture are multi-faced and full of diversity. This Bill tries to negate that. There was a great communist leader in the country whose name is Rahul Sankrityayan . Even now the Government wants to impose Sanskrit on the country and the Minister says that it is a language of the unity. How can a language spoken by a few thousands become the language of unity of Indian people? The imposition of Sanskrit language is a part of an ideology. Coming with a Bill to make Central Sanskrit Universities for the country may not be very helpful for the country's future.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: I stand to support the Bill. Sanskrit is our ancient language and we are proud of its richness and the legacy. I want to flag three important issues. One is that vacancies in these Universities have not been filled for a long time. There are about 120 universities in the country which offer Sanskrit as a subject or language. The teacher to student ratio should be 1:28. But due to these vacancies, it is now 1:52. Apart from forming the Universities, it is very important that we have proper infrastructure and teaching staff. I would like to say that all classical languages should be accorded equal importance and there should be no discrimination. The Government has spent Rs.643.84 crores on Sanskrit in the last three years as against a total meager amount of Rs.29 crores on other five classical languages. I want to laud the Government for including Clause 7 in the Bill which states that the University shall be open to all persons of either sex, whatever caste, creed, race or class. But a Muslim teacher has been said in a central university that he could not teach Sanskrit and he was removed from the post. This should not happen.

SHRI VAIKO: I strongly oppose this obnoxious Bill. The purpose of making these Universities as Central Universities is to eliminate the other languages. The most sinister design could be found in the provision that the University may determine diploma and confer degrees or other academic certificates to persons on the basis of examination, evaluation or any other method of testing. The Central Government has allotted funds to Sanskrit which are 22 times more than the funds allotted to all other languages of India. If this Bill is enacted, in the future, Hindi and Sanskrit will crush not

only the South Indian languages particularly, but all other North Indian languages also. Sanskrit is a dead language. Tamil is the only ancient language which is the mother of all languages. This Bill, if enacted, will be the root cause to demolish Indian unity and democracy. I oppose this Bill. All the State legislatures should pass a resolution against this disastrous Bill.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: I am in favour of this Bill, but we must have the same commitment for all classical languages which we have for Sanskrit. Clause 28 with regards to provide the Honorary degrees should be removed. This is not right. Kameshwar Singh Sanskrit University in Bihar should also be given the status of Central University. Along with the concept of Sanskrit University, it should also ensure that a person of any religion can teach Sanskrit. Today, Central Universities are falling prey to inertia. The priority of the government should not only to establish a university in education but also to develop it.

SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA: I support this Bill. Sanskrit is the most powerful language as compared to classical and other Indian languages. Even today, rituals, havans and recitations take place in Sanskrit and we also invoke the gods in our rituals in Sanskrit. Thus, this language has a different significance. Just like we have Sanatan Dharma, similarly it is Sanatan language. Universities should not have vacancies, only then it will be benefited and Knowledge of Sanskrit should be available to all castes.

DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: The world's richest literature has been composed in Sanskrit itself. Even today the Vedas or Puranas are contemporary, eternal and universal and they are still not bound in the boundaries of any country. Today, the Gita has got reorganization as a universal book across the world. Sanskrit is not only a language, but it is called the mother of all Indian languages. Sanskrit speakers or Sanskrit scholars never opposed any classical language or regional language. Certainly, the establishment of these three Sanskrit Central Universities will provide research opportunities to Sanskrit scholars. Sanskrit is not the language of any caste or religion. Knowledge of Sanskrit, the universal language, is available for every scholar and opportunities are available for everyone to earn knowledge of it. Today all the western countries of the world are researching and studying in Sanskrit literature. They are taking all the manuscripts from us and studying them, but in our own country, all those Sanskrit texts have not been studied or researched yet. Sanskrit is called Dev Bhasha and its development will not be done by making Central University alone. I urge the government that Sanskrit should be taught from junior

school, high school itself. When Sanskrit will be taught in junior schools, high schools and inter school classes, only then will Sanskrit students come to these universities and get Sanskrit education and only then Sanskrit can develop. Only three Central Universities will not sufficient for Sanskrit speakers or for Sanskrit readers. Today there is a need for revival of Sanskrit schools. I understand that by developing Sanskrit, the culture of the country will be developed. Unless, no effort would be made towards connecting Sanskrit with employment, the future of Sanskrit students will not be bright and Sanskrit will not grow and expand. Along with Sanskrit, social science and science subjects should also be taught. Today, there is a need to think on this, at the same time there is a need to make Sanskrit employable and re-establish it as a glorious language in the country and the world.

SHRI P.L. PUNIA: The Central Sanskrit University Bill, 2019 is a very important Bill through which provision has been made to grant the status of Central Universities to three deemed universities. Sanskrit language is a repository of Indian culture and knowledge. Certainly Sanskrit education is very important for the future of our country. As far as I am aware, there are 18 Sanskrit Universities in 15 states, but the government has decided to give Central University status to only three universities. This number could also be increased further. The oldest Sanskrit University in India - Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, is located in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. It was established in 1791. More than 1,200 Sanskrit medium schools and colleges of various states are attached to this university. It is a very popular university. Despite being the oldest university, Sampurnanand Sanskrit University has not been included in the list of Central University. Central universities do not comply with the rules of reservation. In them, both teaching staff and non-teaching staff are taken from outsourcing. This legislation should have ensured that there is no caste based prejudice. We want that along with Sanskrit, Indian traditions should also be taught there.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: I welcome this Bill. Past glory of any language is good, but at the same time we are living in the technological era. Now, artificial intelligence and machine learning are the order of the day. So, we must improve all the languages which are useful or friendly to the modern technologies. I invite the HRD Minister to the Tamil University, Thanjavur. Puratchi Thalaivar M.G. Ramachandran established this University and this university very much needed funds. So I very humbly request the hon. HRD Minister to provide sufficient funds to the Tamil University. Our Chief Minister, Shri Edappadi K. Palaniswami, is taking all appropriate steps to protect the interests of the Tamil people and the language

of Tamil. I request the HRD Minister to take care of Tamil culture and to take appropriate steps to protect the richness of the Tamil.

DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH: We have about six classical languages including Sanskrit in India. I had demanded to grant autonomy to Kannada language but nothing has been done so far. Deemed universities of Sanskrit are being made Central Universities. We must respect all the Indian languages, only then the 'Shreshtha Bharat' will come into existence. There are a few students in the Sanskrit Departments of the different Universities. In many Universities, the Sanskrit Department has been closed because there are no students. Under qualified people are being assigned in these three universities. Do not convert all the universities into Central Universities. Other universities are also come under your purview. The scholarships developed in the Indian languages is much more than the Sanskrit language. Make Sanskrit also at par with other languages of India.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Article 343 of the Constitution says, 'the official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script'. Then Article 351 says, 'the expressions used in Hindi and other languages of India specified in the Eighth Schedule, and by drawing, wherever necessary and desirable, for its vocabulary, primarily on Sanskrit'. Therefore, the Hindi, which is the official Hindi language has to be based on Sanskrit vocabulary and shall use the Sanskrit script, which is Devanagari. Some other languages are also based on Devanagari script. Such all languages originates from 'Brahmi'. According to an article published in Journal of Artificial Intelligence of NASA, there is one language Sanskrit, which for the duration of almost thousand years, was a living, spoken language, with considerable literature of its own. There is a very famous school in London by name, St. James School. In that school, children between the ages of six to eleven, every morning, are made to recite Sanskrit shalokas for half an hour. This may be ensured that every Kendriya Vidyalaya should has an option to learn Sanskrit. We can take the help of other agencies like Samskrita Bharati to spread of Sanskrit is as quickly as possible.

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: It is a very good thing that you are establishing three Central Universities but Sanskrit is compulsory only up to class VIII. Sanskrit should be made compulsory till the twelfth grade. There are only 4 colleges in Chhattisgarh, these should be increased to 10. A university should also be established here. India is known as 'Vishwaguru' only due to Sanskrit. Sanskrit language was earlier considered as a language of a particular class.

***THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'), replying to the debate, said:** I express my gratefulness towards all the members who have guided me through their precious views. It is very well known that the roots of Indian Culture are in the Sanskrit Language. India is known to the world through its language - Sanskrit and it's Sanskriti (Culture). During the ancient time India was called the *Vishwa Guru* of the World. Students from all over the world used to come to Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramshila and other Ancient Indian Universities to study the Vedas, Vedangas, Philosophy, Ayurveda. It is the culture of India that has considered the whole world as a family. Our government promotes all Indian languages. The Government is always in favour of empowering the 22 Indian languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule including Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Gujarati, Marathi, Bengali, Sanskrit, Urdu etc. In ancient times Sanskrit was the language of sages, mathematicians and astrologers etc. and their great texts were in Sanskrit. But, hundreds of years of slavery of our country have made us mentally slaves. Most schools in this country are promoting the English language and crores of rupees are being spent by them on the promotion of English language. India has been called *Vishwa Guru* due to Sanskrit language. India has played a leading role in the entire world in the fields of knowledge, science and research etc. in Sanskrit. However, centuries of slavery tried to keep us aloof from our roots. It is only Sanskrit that establishes unity. Sanskrit is a beautiful language and it has kept our society enlightened since time immemorial. Today many countries are doing research in the field of Sanskrit language. I think that our ancient texts are a repository of Sanskrit knowledge. It is not just a matter of language. There should be an urgent and comprehensive discussion on Sanskrit. Its knowledge, science and research should be discussed. I want to say with pleasure that Sanskrit is taught in many colleges of the country and there are 20 Sanskrit Universities, in which at present, 5 crore students are studying Sanskrit. I am happy to say that Sanskrit is being taught today in Australia, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, UK, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland, Japan, USA, Nepal, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Mauritius, Bhutan, Mongolia, Iran and Saudi Arabia etc. There is something special in Sanskrit because Germany has set up 14 Sanskrit universities. If our legacy is carried forward with new research and

* Also spoke in Sanskrit.

science, then India will become the *Vishwa Guru* in the whole world. We have everything in Sanskrit i.e. our knowledge, science, research and Vedas, Puranas, Upanishads etc., are in Sanskrit. It is a necessity today that we move forward in the world with innovation. That is why we are converting these three universities into central universities. The Architects of our Constitution knew that if this country is to be empowered, then it is possible only with the strength of Sanskrit. However, Sanskrit has borne the brunt of neglect. In 2014, our government told that these three cultural universities will be given the status of Central University. And through research, this ancient language of India will be linked with science. Through this, we once again want to make India a *Vishwa Guru*. That is why this bill has been brought in. I am happy that all the members have unanimously supported it. We consider all Indian languages important. Until the Indian languages are promoted, nothing can enlighten us. This government is committed to all Indian languages. Sanskrit is not only the language of India but it is the language of the whole world. We are setting up three central universities and the path to promote Sanskrit will start from here. I once again thank the entire House.

The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted.

Clauses etc., as amended, were adopted.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

Discussion on Working of Ministry of Railways

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN, initiating the discussion, said: Last year the Railway Minister posted a Vande Bharat Express video where the train was going at lightning speed. It was realized later that actually the train was not going at lightning speed; that video has been speeded up to look 50 times more fast than what it was. The reality is that the BJP Government has overturned a 92 year old tradition of presenting a Railway Budget. As a result, we have not had a Railway Budget for the last three years. Is there enough transparency? Total working expenditure is up by 32 per cent, whereas actually it should be coming down. Net Revenue Receipt is down by 78 per cent since 2014-15. Revenue deficit is down with Rs.75,000 crore now. Since the Railway Budget and the General Budget got amalgamated,

the people of India must know that the Railways used to pay a dividend of Rs.7,000 crore or Rs.8,000 crore every year to the Government of India. Because of the amalgamation of the Budgets, now the Railways do not have to pay this dividend to the Government of India. Also, the growth of freight has always been tepid around 1 per cent, except for one year in 2018. Before 2014, this growth of freight was 4 per cent. What are you doing wrong whereby from 4 per cent you are down to 1 per cent? Freight is the *dal-roti* of Indian Railways. There are a lot of gimmicks. We need serious solutions; we don't need gimmicks. Now, in the Railways, for every Rs.100 Railways earn, it spends Rs.110. That is the official figure. I don't know whether it is Rs.130 or Rs.140. That is the situation. The Government should clarify that there will be no privatisation of the Railways. I think the new campaign is 'Sell India'. Sell everything -- PSUs, Air India, LIC. You took Rs.60,000 crore from the Life Insurance Corporation. The Government should tell us how this Rs.60,000 crore was used. At present the BJP Government is depriving the state of West Bengal. The Government has allocated just a meagre sum of 1000 rupees for the extension of the railway line connecting Tarakeshwar and Jairambati in West Bengal. Besides a few more projects have been allocated 1000 rupees each. West Bengal is not asking for your charity. Grabbing of land from farmers will not be allowed. The East-West Metro Corridor was opened recently in which the State Government helped. The non-BJP states have not been treated equally in allocation of funds for projects. 'Notebandi' and 'bullet train' have been talked about a lot. The Government should tell as to when the bullet train will be completed. It has made some progress on the bio toilets. The target has been fixed that electrification would be done by 2023. I would like to ask the Government as to how it will reach this target by 2023. The Railways have a social responsibility and an economic viability and these two things have to go together. False promises have been made and the states like Bengal and others have been deprived. Regarding merger of Railway Services, I have to say that let administrative remain administrative and technical remain technical service. The Government is requested to look deeply into it and talk to the Railway family before you make this decision. There are lots of Indian citizens who are also worried.

SHRI G.V.L. NARASIMHA RAO: I support and defend the record of this Government and the plans of the Ministry of Railways for the Financial Year 2020-21. Indian Railways carries the largest number of passengers anywhere in the world. We are the 4th largest freight carrier and the 3rd largest rail-route network in terms of length. Six years ago, the

investment was sparse, the asset quality was poor, the technology was old, the decision-making processes were slow. But, there is infrastructure thrust with higher investment for the financial year 2020-21. The target of electrification of the entire broad gauge network by 2023-24 has been fixed. Doubling of farmers' income by 2022 has been a major goal set out by the present Government. In this year's Budget, a Kisan Rail was announced. There will be several hundred such trains that will be operated to ensure that we have easy transport and we also have a low cost transport to the nearest seaports in the country. A year from now, all the stations would be equipped with free Wi-Fi facility. People won't have to stand in a queue to buy a platform ticket, unreserved tickets. Through digital technology the best information would be provided to the passengers. As a part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the Swachh Railways has also taken a very big role. By the end of this year, the Government propose to provide bio-toilets in all the trains in the country. Single-use plastic has been banned in all the Indian Railway uses. In 91 hospitals operated by the Indian Railways, the Ayushman Bharat scheme has been introduced. Nearly a three-time increase in the overall capital expenditure has been made. Doubling of railway tracks has increased four times. Nearly three to ten-fold increase in terms of expansion, modernization, improved facilities and on every aspect of public convenience are being achieved. Some major projects have been taken up in different States. In Andhra Pradesh, three, in Bihar five, in Haryana five, in Jharkhand five new projects have been taken up. All the infrastructure sectors of the economy have received a huge thrust under the present Government.

SHRI NARANBHAI J. RATHWA: The Government have announced several key points in the Railway Budget 2020-21. During UPA government, rail budget was presented separately. The same system may be continued. A pink book volume A and B is issued. The Government is requested to circulate it to all the members so that they may get information about the railway projects. The Railway Board is being undermined. Besides running trains, Indian Railways also manages various non-remunerative activities such as running schools and hospitals for their employees. The Board will have a Chairman who will act as the Chief Executive Officer. It will have four members responsible for infrastructure, operations and business development, rolling stock and finance. The Board will also have a few independent members in advisory role. Indian Railways has a matrix organization structure with its operational field units organized in three layers (zones, divisions and other operational units). While the entire network is managed by the Railway Board, for ease of management, the network is

divided into 17 zones. Each railway zone is responsible for the operation, management and development. Zones are further divided into divisions which are headed by a Divisional Railway Manager (DRM). It appears that Government is contemplating to reduce the power of General Manager of railway. It will delay the completion of projects. On-going projects are running at least for 20-25 years late in the railway. They are not being accorded priority. The work of new railway lines announced are not progressing. The target of railway board for construction of road over-bridge, under bridge on open level crossing is lagging behind. It causes delay of trains and accidents. But no step has been taken for its safety by the Railway Board. Wi-Fi system has been installed only on 522 stations. There are incidents of theft and loot in the complex of stations. For proper surveillance CCTV camera is required there. The Government has given 150 trains on PPP model. This is an attempt of privatisation. Discussion is being made to make railway stations of world class. But there is no progress in this regard. It is being considered to close the printing press for printing railway tickets and printing papers. This needs to be stopped. The government is also thinking of privatizing it. The sanctioned Patan-Bhildi line has not been completed yet. Similarly, there is a need to expedite work on Chhota Udaipur-Dhar line. The project will benefit the tribal people of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. There is 'Statue of Unity' in Kevariya, Gujarat, which is visited by people from all over India and the world. The completion of this line will facilitate tourists.

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

**ERRATA TO THE SUPPLEMENT OF THE SYNOPSIS OF
DEBATE DATED 12th MARCH, 2020**

AND

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE DATED 13TH MARCH, 2020

Page No.	Line No.	Correction
308	10-22	Delete lines : "Today the House.....follow it."
311	21	Read 'his party' for 'our party'.
330	17	Delete 'of ' before 'the country.'
332	17	Add 'are' after 'sanitizers'.
338	19	Read ' <i>Vivad se Vishwas Scheme</i> ' for ' <i>Vivad se Vishwas Bill.</i> '
351	25	Read 'would' for 'will.'