

# RAJYA SABHA

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## \*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

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(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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Tuesday, December 14, 2021/ Agrahayana 23, 1943 (Saka)

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### MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF CHAIR

#### 1. Increasing Illegal Religious Conversions in the Country

**SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:** I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the systematic conversion going on across the country. India is the only country in the world where people belonging to minority communities want to retain their constitutional right to conduct illegal conversion campaigns. Majority of religious people want to ban conversion. In most of the countries of the world, people of minority community demand a ban on conversion to save their followers from conversion by the majority. The campaign of inducement or forced conversion of tribal and poor sections of the people across the country by foreign missionaries is going on under a well planned strategy. The number of tribal Hindus in Jharkhand has decreased by 30 percent in the last several years. From the North-East to the entire country, this campaign is going on. A loud voice was raised in the Parliament to enact a national level conversion law. The Supreme Court also suggested enactment of a conversion law with a view to protect the interests of women and prevent abuse of the right to religious freedom. But due to the greed and pressure of minority

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

votes, this law could not achieve the ground reality. Majority society in India is unsafe in its own country. The situation is extremely appalling and worrying. Keeping in view the social security, social harmony, emotional unity in the country and security of the country, I demand a strict anti-conversion law at the national level.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

## **2. Need to pay Compensation to the Farmers whose Crops Were Damaged in the Recent Cyclone in Andhra Pradesh**

**SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY:** The recent cyclone in the months of November and December severely affected many Districts of Andhra Pradesh and the farmers have lost standing crops. People living in the vulnerable areas in the respective districts have been evacuated. Many standing crops were either totally damaged or partially damaged due to heavy rains and cyclone that ravaged our State of Andhra Pradesh. The two cyclones consequently have pounded our State. I urge upon the Government to immediately take action to pay compensation to the affected farmers under the PM Fasal Bima Yojana.

*(Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar, Dr. Sasmit Patra and Dr. Amar Patnaik associated.)*

## **3. Myanmar Refugees in Mizoram**

**SHRI K. VANLALVENA:** I want to inform this House about the present situation of Myanmar refugees in the State of Mizoram. There are about fifteen thousand Myanmar refugees in the State of Mizoram due to the Myanmar military coup. These refugees are scattered everywhere within the State of Mizoram. Some of them are living with their relatives. Most of them are living in the refugee camps. We have provided them food, clothing, water, medicine, shelter, children education without the help of the Government during corona pandemic. I am requesting the Government to help all these

Myanmar refugees even though India is not a signatory for the refugees. Being the biggest democracy in the world, it is our duty to help our neighbours who accept democratic rights and principles.

*( Dr. Sasmit Patra and Dr. Amar Patnaik associated.)*

#### **4. Need to Establish Mega Intregrated Textile Region and Apparel (MITRA) Park in Kopparthy, Kadapa District of Andhra Pradesh**

**SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:** This submission is for establishing a textile mega park at Kopparthy. The Government has recently notified the establishment of seven Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel Parks in the country. These Parks will integrate the entire textile value chain from spinning, weaving, dyeing and printing at a single location and introduce modern infrastructural facilities for the entire value chain. This will help in reducing the logistic cost, generate employment and attract local and foreign investment in the textile sector. The Kopparthy region of the YSR Kadapa district is an area to a thriving and dynamic textile industry with a strong presence of textile-based industries. With the recent establishment of the Mega Industrial Hub in the region, it possesses the infrastructural and logistical linkages needed for the MITRA Parks to flourish. In the past few years, the region has become a preferred destination for investors and the Andhra Pradesh Government is working actively to promote it as an investor-friendly region through a host of incentives and subsidies. It is a well-developed spinning and processing sector. The State would greatly benefit from the establishment of MITRA Park. I urge the Government to establish one of the MITRA Parks in Kopparthy region of Andhra Pradesh.

*(Dr. Amar Patnaik, Dr. Sasmit Patra and Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar associated.)*

#### **5. Need to Investigate the Incident Caused Due to Dam Induced Flood Disaster in Andhra Pradesh**

**SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:** Recently, eight persons were killed and 50 others have been reported missing after they were washed away in gushing waters after the

Annamayya project breached near Rajampeta in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Sensing the danger and severity of the situation, the State Government should have acted in a time-bound manner. I want to bring to your notice the sudden inflow of water in the Annamayya dam more than its spillway capacity. It is overflowing with water. The water is coming out through the natural gates. I would like to say that one of the five gates didn't open. You may see the plight of the people. Thousands of cattle lost their lives. The matter is very sensitive. It also involves the safety and protection of the public at large. I request the Government to conduct an independent investigation by a Central Government team and fix the responsibility as to who is responsible for the negligence in the State Government.

*(Dr. Amar Patnaik and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)*

#### **6. Need to Regulate, Subsidise and Fix a Price Ceiling on the Cardiovascular Surgeries and Pacemaker Surgeries**

**DR. NARENDRA JADHAV:** Post Covid-19 pandemic, there is a significant rise in the number of patients reporting breathlessness and palpitations. It has been observed that post-Covid, there is an increased tendency of clot formation. Serious long-term complications in cardiovascular and respiratory system have also been reported, especially in the patients with severe Covid-19, who were hospitalized. The disruption in the flow of blood to heart due to clot formation can also cause cardiac arrest. Many people who have developed cardiovascular diseases are going in for a pacemaker implantation procedure. This phenomenon has been witnessed in almost every age group. Even people of young age are opting for heart surgeries in order to survive. People with dysfunctional lungs or respiratory system failure have also developed cardiovascular diseases. The pacemaker surgery costs are very high. It is hard to imagine the havoc that has been wreaked on families by Covid-19

pandemic. Many families may have been pushed into poverty in their bid to fight against Covid-19. The situation has now exacerbated further with these patients developing post Covid-19 conditions.

*(Dr. Sasmit Patra, Dr. Amar Patnaik and Shri Sujeet Kumar associated.)*

### **7. Inclusion of Narikurava Community in Tamil Nadu in the Scheduled Tribes List**

**SHRI G. K. VASAN:** The Narikurava community which had migrated to the Southern States from other parts of India and those in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala have been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. The community in Tamil Nadu has not been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes despite efforts by previous Governments. There is a general consensus among various political parties both at the State level and at the national level to grant Scheduled Tribe status to the Narikurava community in Tamil Nadu. Therefore, I request the Government to take necessary steps for including the Narikurava community in Tamil Nadu in the Scheduled Tribes List.

*(Dr. Sasmit Patra and Dr. Amar Patnaik associated.)*

### **8. Heavy Losses to the PSU Banks**

**SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY:** As far as the public sector banks are concerned, it appears that huge corporate bad loans have been resolved with heavy haircut and loss to the banks. The public sector banks have suffered huge losses. The new companies have taken these loans at a much less price. The question of cartelization cannot be ruled out. I would urge upon the Government to institute a Commission of Enquiry to find out whether there is any cartelization.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

## **9. Discrimination against Students Belonging to SC/ST Community**

**SHRI RAMJI:** I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the irregularities and discrimination happening in the entrance examinations of the University at present. Recently, interviews were conducted for admission to Ph.D in JNU. 70 marks were allotted for the written test and 30 marks for the oral interview. Only two to three marks were given to SC, ST and OBC students out of the prescribed 30 marks of interview. I request the Government that it is not logical and justified to give two to three marks to SC, ST and OBC students in this interview. Due to the low fees and quartile system in JNU, most of the children come from disadvantaged sections and they are deprived of higher education. This is playing with the future of the country. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to another serious matter, which is related to the scholarships given to the students of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Till now, due to timely availability of scholarships of SC and ST students all over the country, more and more people of these classes were getting educated in the field of education. But ever since the present Government has come, their scholarship has been stopped by treating the students of SC and ST unjustly. I demand the Government that justice should be given to the students who had met injustice and the scholarship should be released to the students of SC, ST and OBC as soon as possible.

*(Dr. Amar Patnaik and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)*

## **10. Need for Revision of Compensation amount under the Jatiya Parivar Mangala Yojana in Odisha**

**SHRIMATI MAMATA MOHANTA:** I want to make a request about 'Jatiya Parivar Mangal Yojana'. Under this scheme, if the main income earner of a family dies and if his age is less than 60 years and his children are minor, then that family is included in this scheme. In this scheme, the beneficiary gets assistance according to the BPL survey. BPL survey may be conducted after every five years. According to the BPL survey, the economic condition of the poor

family is better than before and that of the rich family has also become poor. I request through you that by amending the BPL survey of 1997, these families should be included in this scheme as per their economic condition.

*(Dr. Amar Patnaik, Dr. Sasmit Patra and Shri Sujeet Kumar associated.)*

### **11. Biases over Functioning against Khap Panchayats**

**LT.GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.):** I want to raise my voice against the spreading of misconceptions about Khap Panchayats by the media and some other elements. Khap Panchayats are brotherhood panchayats, which run the Lok Raj. Khap Panchayats have done commendable work for women's education. The Khap Panchayats have corrected the sex ratio by doing commendable work against female feticide. A petition was also filed against them in the Supreme Court, but the Supreme Court refused to hear that petition and refused to ban Khap Panchayats. Khap Panchayats are progressive Panchayats.

### **12. Impact of Inflation on Poor and Middle Classes**

**SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE:** The recent World Inequality Report 2021 has flagged India as a 'poor and very unequal country'. With the economic downturn engendered by the pandemic making matters worse, India's middle class shrunk to a frightening extent during the pandemic years. Inflation, resulting from this economic decline, has adversely affected the poor and the middle classes. And instead of taking an empathetic view of the poor and the middle classes, the Government has continued with its neoliberal economic policies, which have been ruining lives and livelihoods alike. It is high time that the Government realizes its folly and undertakes a much-needed course correction.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

### **13. Exploitation of Farmers in Procurement of Paddy throughout Country**

**SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:** The central government has increased the price of paddy by one and a half times its cost and made record purchase. For this I want to congratulate the Government but the farmers are not getting as much benefit as they should. I want to demand from the government that a government employee should be sitting at every paddy purchase center who has a machine and gives a certificate, then that paddy should be purchased. This will save the farmers from exploitation.

*(Shri Harnath Singh Yadav, Dr. Amar Patnaik, Dr. Sasmit Patra, Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar associated.)*

### **14. Need to Direct Social Media Companies to Allocate Specific Budget to Flag Problematic Content on their Platform and its Removal**

**SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:** Google and Facebook together take away around 75 per cent of the total digital advertising market in India. The issue is that these big tech firms are getting rich at the expense of traditional media. Facebook is undermining safety of the largest user base of 34 crores of users in India. It does not flag problematic content, misinformation and hate speech. Even on the death of Shri Bipin Rawat, there were objectionable tweets on Facebook and other social media platforms. I would, therefore, urge that India must form an independent regulatory body that ensures a legislative framework which shall oversee the activities of these Big Tech Companies and also ensures that these platforms dedicate proper budgetary allocation towards 'content moderation' and 'revenue sharing' with traditional media.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

### **15. Need for 25% Reservation for the Residents of Puducherry in Pondicherry University**

**SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:** The Central Universities in India are functioning with the land, water, electricity and other

infrastructural facilities of the local Government. But unfortunately, despite utilising the resources, the students of Puducherry are not assured of a share in admissions for all the courses conducted by the Central University. The people of Puducherry have been requesting the Pondicherry University to reserve 25 per cent of the seats exclusively for students of Puducherry for several years. Let such a reservation be not only for Pondicherry University but for all 54 Central Universities in India.

*(Dr. Amar Patnaik and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)*

#### **16. Excavation of Important Sites by the Archaeological Survey of India**

**SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:** While ASI is globally known for outstanding archaeological investigations through explorations and excavations throughout the country, it is quite intriguing to raise that the dedicated Excavations Branches have not been assigned any major excavations for the last more than 15 years. Large-scale excavations may extend great help in the reconstruction of Indian history based upon impeccable evidence. Therefore, I make an appeal to the Government to direct ASI to take up large-scale excavations at the important sites.

*(Dr. Amar Patnaik, Dr. Sasmit Patra, Shri Sujeet Kumar and Dr. Sonal Mansingh associated.)*

#### **17. Need to Celebrate the Role of 15 Women Representatives in Constituent Assembly on the Occasion of 75<sup>th</sup> Year of Indian Independence**

**SHRI RAKESH SINHA:** I urge the Government that on the occasion of 'Amrit Mahotsav', monographs should be published on the 15 women, who were members of the Constituent Assembly and seminars should be organized on them. I urge the government to bring to light the roles of all these women members and their socio-political activities so that the society becomes aware about them.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

## **SPECIAL MENTIONS**

### **1. Need to Declare Cow as National Animal**

**DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:** Cow is an integral part of Indian culture and we worship it. It is the need of the hour that cow should be declared as 'National Animal' and cow protection should be made a fundamental right of the Hindus. We know that when the culture and faith of a country gets hurt, then the country becomes weak. Therefore, my demand is that the Central Government should bring an effective law to stop the slaughter of cows and declare the mother cow as 'national animal'.

*(Dr. Sasmit Patra and Dr. Amar Patnaik associated.)*

### **2. Need to Promote the Use of Bio Ethanol in the Country**

**SHRI MAHESH PODDAR:** A substantial part of the country's foreign exchange is spent on purchasing petroleum products and their consumption also increases pollution. On the other hand, the government is trying to improve the economic condition of the farmers and double their income. Bio-ethanol is an excellent alternative to petroleum products and can also be made from agricultural waste. If the government purchases a certain quantity of the country's agricultural products and uses them to prepare bio-ethanol, then it is possible to solve both the problems simultaneously. I urge the Government to expeditiously make a policy to promote the use of bio-ethanol petroleum.

*(Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)*

### **3. Need for granting Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh**

**SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI:** Post-bifurcation of the erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh in 2014, the newly formed State of Telangana and the successor State of Andhra Pradesh have several bifurcation related issues that are yet to be resolved. Even after seven years of bifurcation, majority of the commitments remain unfulfilled and Andhra Pradesh continues to face

immense economic hardships and deprivation. In this regard, grant of special category status is a must for Andhra Pradesh.

*(Dr. Sasmit Patra and Dr. Amar Patnaik associated.)*

#### **4. Need to Increase the Developmental Activities to Control Left Wing Extremism in Odisha**

**DR. SASMIT PATRA:** Under the leadership of hon. Chief Minister of Odisha, Left Wing Extremism has come down in Odisha. If developmental activities are given impetus in the state, it can further help in reducing Left wing extremism in Odisha. Secondly, Bank branches should be set up in Left Wing Extremism areas and the Government should strive to ensure that more children from these Left Wing Extremism affected areas secure admissions through NEET, IIT-JEE, etc. It is primarily through economic prosperity of these Left Wing Extremism affected districts that we can stop Left Wing extremism.

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### **GOVERNMENT BILLS**

#### **1. The Delhi Special Police Establishment (Amendment) Bill, 2021**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH), moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said:** This Government has sought to follow a policy of zero tolerance against corruption. The approach of the Government has been to check corruption and to ensure enhanced transparency in the functioning of the Government. In India, so far, the tenure of the CBI Director was of two years with the clause not less than two years. We are suggesting a tenure not

more than five years. Contrary to the popular perception or impression that the term is being increased, it is being restricted to five years. Each extension will have the reasons put on record and will go through the same selection process. I would request the august House to approve these amendments and allow them safe passage.

**LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.):** The Bill seeks to regulate the tenure of the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation. Corruption is a very big issue in the country. As far as our Government's performance against corruption is concerned, our ratings by the world agencies have improved and we have to be up to the standards of FATF also. I was talking about the tenures. This tenure, for stability, has to be regulated. We are making it of minimum two years and extension will be given by a high-powered committee presided by the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India and LoP. As far as the CBI jurisdiction is concerned, some States opt for the CBI investigation, if it suits them. CBI's jurisdiction in States has also to be increased so that corrupts are not spared. Otherwise, what had been happening is one who is caught taking bribe is released after giving bribe. Deterrent and exemplary punishments to be followed and the culprit should not be spared.

**DR. AMAR PATNAIK:** Corruption has not only economic cost, but also has a very heavy and huge social cost. While supporting the Bill, our case is also that there should be a strong, independent, fair investigating agency mechanism in this country as part of the executive like the CBI and the ED. But there are allegations of motivated action taken by some of these agencies. The action of these organisations should be independent, fair and should also ensure that there is no corruption by functionaries of that organisation themselves. The prime reason for pendency of cases, both in ED and CBI, is the staff shortage. There is a need for relooking into that so that there are no allegations of motivated action by these agencies against the so-called political opponents or economic offenders. ED has done extremely good work in not only registering cases, but also by ensuring their logical conclusion of at least filing the prosecution. These organisations will retain the confidence of the people, only if

they act fairly and independently. There should be very little interference by the courts. I support the Bill.

**DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:** Everybody knows about the CBI's role and it is not a new organisation. The agency is known to investigate several economic crimes, special crimes, cases of corruption and other cases. The State Governments have their own agencies to investigate and to find out corruption that is there. Throughout the country, most of the people have faith in CBI. I support this Bill.

**SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:** I request that the decision should be taken within a time limit and the investigation should be done immediately, if this happens then the extension of time of this commission will be justified. I support this Bill.

**SHRI G.K. VASAN:** Corruption-free is the need of the nation. Independent investigation, time bound action is a must, which must be underlined by the Government. When people feel that a CBI inquiry is justified in most of the cases, and they have confidence on the CBI inquiry, that means that the confidence level has to be increased. Pending cases have to be given a speedy inquiry and within a stipulated time it has to be completed. I support this Bill.

**SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA:** CBI is one of the institutions of our country, which has a great credibility. It is better to strengthen the CBI more and more. Particularly, extension of the tenure of CBI officials for a further period is very important. It is better to give extension to good officers for their good services. I support the Bill.

**SHRI BRIJLAL:** CBI is one of our premier investigative agencies, which has over time gained expertise in Special Offenses, Economic Offenses and New Age Crimes. In fact the CBI has done important work in the cases of complex and sensational crimes. The investigations are handed over to the CBI by the State Governments or by the High Courts and the Supreme Court. The cases referred by the state government and the courts to the CBI are generally old and complex. The conviction rate in the investigations conducted by CBI is

around 70%, which would be considered very good and which is the result of hard work and careful investigation done by this institution. The Director of CBI plays a very important role in leading the organization towards achieving the organizational objectives and goals. I support this Bill.

**The hon'ble Minister, replying to the debate, said:** If there is a petty theft in the street, then there is a demand from the common people that the case should be given to the CBI, this institution has so much credibility, so much credibility. The entire intent is to make it more effective, streamline, institutionalize and democratize. The decision is to limit the tenure of CBI to five years. Many of the State Governments find it very convenient and easy to withdraw the general consent which normally should be available to the CBI. Our proprietary demand is that if the CBI wants to take up a case in a given State, the State Government should be cooperative and responsive, instead of holding it back from entry. India is one of the countries which has the least tenure for the head of the investigating agency. Methodologies of crime have undergone a change New technologies have come in. The relevance of the head of the investigation agency is that many a time, quite a lot of information is privy only to him in person. So, in the middle of an important case, if you change the head of the agency, others may not be able to carry it forward in the same tone and tenor .We are also now a part of the Financial Action Task Force. The upper limit of the tenure may have to be extended to maintain the independence of this body. I humbly request that the House approves the Delhi Special Police Establishment (Ordinance) 2021, which seeks to amend Section 4B which means that we are making the law much, much more candid, clear and stipulated.

*The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted.*

*Clauses etc., were adopted.*

*The Bill, was passed.*

## 2. The Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2021

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):** Most of the members who are present here are in agreement with the merit of the Bill. The Enforcement Director has a very crucial role in money-laundering cases. The term of the Enforcement Director is not being made indefinite or at the pleasure of the Government. The Clause 'not less than two years' is just being amended 'to go up to five years with one year of a term on each occasion', and this is, I think, in the interest of not only national security of India but also the stability of the financial structure.

**SHRI SURESH PRABHU:** A significant challenge before our country is how to provide maximum relief to the poor people of the country by the Government through various schemes. The government gets money from the tax that the government levies on the income of the people or on the income earned by the corporate sector. Parallel economy has been running for a long time which has been a major drawback. There was a time when the parallel economy was running faster than our formal economy. If black money is created then the poor man gets exploited the most. Money laundering is a huge problem all over the world and it is not limited to just our country. Black money is generated in different ways. To bring it into the economy, these people come up with different tactics. To bring the economy under control, we passed the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. For the implementation of the law, the post of Director of Enforcement has been created who will implement it in the true sense. There can be debate as to what should be the tenure of Director of Enforcement but it is necessary that his tenure should be such which is sufficient for him to discharge his responsibility. There

is a whole network all over the world which oversees money laundering. This is a very complex issue. The greater the complexity of the issue, the more time it will take to understand it. So when a person gets more time, he will benefit from the position he has occupied. SITF has also said that you should make such a system, in which there is also an institution. Unless someone takes over as the head of the institution it will prove to be unsuccessful. If the right person does not take charge of it, then that organization will prove to be unsuccessful. There is no change in the selection method of such a person. There is no reason to oppose such a clause. If people do not fulfill their obligations, do not pay their taxes, then our country will remain poor. If we are successful in eradicating black money by the appointment of Director of Enforcement, then you will see that in the coming days we will definitely be able to bring a change in the lives of the poor because the government will have money to give to those poor. We will be able to generate money when our tax-to-GDP ratio will increase. An increase in the GDP alone will not work. It is necessary that we bring about a radical change in our economy. One of the changes is also how our economy is decoupled from such a parallel economy permanently. Different steps need to be taken to do away with it. I support this Bill.

**\* SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI: (Spoke in Telugu.)**

**DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:** In India, black money is a parallel economy. Throughout the world, it is going on. The Government want to control it and brought forward an Act to control money laundering. This way the economy can be streamlined. Also, through tax, the Government will generate more income and unethical activities can be controlled. The Act provides for constitution of Central Vigilance Commission to conduct enquiries into the offences

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

alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act. But, there is a conflict between CVC and CBI. That is the problem. The CVC has a very important role in that. While bringing the legislations on money laundering and other things, the Government have given importance to the Enforcement Director to enable him to act impartially. There is nothing wrong in extending the period up to five years. I support the Bill.

**SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:** I have spoken on this Bill. I support it.

**SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:** The Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2021 has been brought before this House with an object to ensure continuity of tenure of the Director of Enforcement Directorate. The Central Bureau of Investigation has the primary responsibility to investigate the cases of corruption. We realize that corruption and crime have attached multiple dimensions in recent years. Black money is also getting linked to international crimes. We are also facing the drug trafficking. All these have collectively led to new methodologies and new technologies. The investigating officers are supposed to conduct the investigation and dispose of the matter, take immediate and appropriate steps to get disposal of the cases. Delay in disposing of the matters creates possibility of tampering of evidences by abusing the power. Therefore, CBI, ED and the Vigilance Commission shall take appropriate immediate steps to dispose of the cases. Then only the purpose of this Bill will be served.

**SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:** I support this Bill. CBI, ED and CVC are big weapons to fight corruption. The way we have fought corruption has resulted in India rising from its 185th rank in 2014 to 77th rank in 2020. Our Government made laws to stop black money coming from different countries. The Benami Transactions Act was enacted long back but the UPA Government did not implement it. Our government implemented it and tried to stop political funding by amending it. The Government has also taken initiative to bring back the big fugitive economic offenders and confiscate their property by enacting Fugitive Economic Offenders Act to confiscate their

property. The Government has collected thousands of crores of taxes by bringing in the Black Money Act. Also, the Government has done the work of saving thousands of crores of rupees of the poor of this country by eliminating middlemen through 'Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme'. Through PDS lakhs of crores of rupees have been saved. The Government has cancelled crores of fake and duplicate gas connections, has banned lakhs of fake scholarships through DBT. Thousands of crore of rupees have been saved by installing POS machine in PDS shops. We will not compromise on the issue of corruption any way. Our Government has clearly said that a committee will be formed to extend the tenure and their tenure can be extended only on the basis of consent in that committee. I thank the Government for bringing this Bill.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE):** I will always remember this day. Together we will eradicate corruption, black money. This Bill is for the development of the country and the countrymen. This bill is against the holders of black money and the people indulge in corrupt activity. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar ji had written that if corruption is to be eradicated, then demonetisation should be done once after 10 years and there should be a change in the power. Enforcement Directorate and CBI are special and independent departments. Black money causes huge loss to the country and government exchequer. I support this Bill which has been brought today to end corruption. Corruption and black money should be done away with and more and more money should come in the exchequer of the government.

**SHRI G.V.L. NARASIMHA RAO:** I stand to support the Amendment Bill which seeks to give a tenure up to five years to the Director of the Enforcement Directorate. The Enforcement Directorate oversees enforcement the PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) and FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act). Both the Bills under discussion have enabling provisions to ensure that both ED, and in the previous Bill, the CBI can function more effectively. In the last seven years, we have ended the era of political corruption, the crony

capitalism. We have taken a series of punitive steps against the financial fraud and also malpractices. In the last seven years, 3.38 lakh shell companies had been shut down by the ED. More than 1 lakh Directors, different companies were found to be either fake or non bona fide members of the respective companies. A decision was made to debar them. About the Enforcement Directorate, 888 prosecution complaints were filed under PMLA in the last seven years till date. These cases are in different stages of trial. Properties worth Rs.89,547 crores were attached under PMLA cases in these 888 ongoing cases and Rs.50,945 crores have already been confirmed by the adjudicating authority. In order to fast-track trial under PMLA and increasing the effectiveness, a new legal framework and new standard operating procedures have been put in place. The extension of tenure is to be decided by a Committee as prescribed under the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003. This extension will have certain safeguards and extension can go on up to for five years. The Statement of Objects and Reasons also mentions how the Financial Action Task Force put in place certain oversight mechanisms to ensure that the institutions that are required to oversee or prevent terror financing in their respective countries have to conform to certain procedural frameworks. Stability and continuity in the office of the Enforcement Directorate is important to take all the cases to their logical conclusions. It is ensured that every penny that is borrowed from the Banks and every person who has borrowed from the Banks is made liable for repayment. In Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi cases out of Rs.22,586 crores losses made to the public sector banks, assets worth Rs.19,111 crores were attached under PMLA, Rs.15,113 crores have been restituted to the public sector banks. These agencies have been extremely effective in curbing terror financing as also money laundering. Many instances in the past show how the CBI or the ED were subverted under the previous Governments. But this Government had certainly maintained arms distance. We have ensured that these institutions conform to the integrity and honesty expected of them.

**SHRI RAKESH SINHA:** The issue on which we are debating today attracts the focus of the whole country. This

Amendment Bill has a profound effect on the Indian democracy, on the economy of India, on the public life of India. I want to speak on the extension of the first term. Fingerprint tests, forensic labs, the FBI index, which constitutes an index of today's terrorists, all have been provided by Mr. Hoover. He was the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation from 1924 to 1972. Thus, institutions cannot contribute to nation building unless the people who lead them have confidence, a sense of stability, and they do not have the basic infrastructure. The worst impact of corruption falls on the poor and working people. The biggest benefit of Direct Benefit Transfer has gone to the poor. When there is corruption, the common people doesn't get the justice they deserve. In the administrative corridor, by eliminating middlemen, we have provided more economic benefits to the poor than ever before. After seven years of efforts, by introducing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, we have shut down the companies that used to destroy the economy using black money. Not only were three lakh sales companies closed, but after the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, three lakh crore rupees came into the account of the Government of India and two lakh crore rupees are yet to come. The Directors are appointed with the participation of the executive, the judiciary and the opposition for the sake of stability of the institutions. In 2012, the CBI, after conducting an internal analysis of 264 cases, found that 698 convicts were politically connected and 486 cases related to private individuals. The Congress Government continued to support corruption. The Director of CVC had said in an interview in 2012 that we need clarity to act on political prisoners, political accused. Today our Government has worked to bring stability, transparency in institutions and morality in the economy. For the first time today, India has brought economics and morality together. I thank the Government to bring this Amendment Bill.

**The hon'ble Minister, replying to the debate, said:** I have to thank all the Members for their valuable views. The noble motive behind bringing this Bill stands fully established. Over the last seven decades, the pollution also has grown much higher. Therefore, we need to understand that the ramifications of this entire investigation format have also not only got complicated but also got very much

intricate. We are now faced with the triple menace of corruption, black money and international offence, which is linked to another triple menace of drugs, terrorism and crime. All of these together are a challenge and a threat to the national security of India and also to the financial stability. In the middle of a very critical investigation, if the Head or the Director or the Head of ED or the Director's tenure suddenly comes to an end, the beneficiary may be the person against whom the interrogation was happening because the entire information by the Interrogating Officer may not have been shared even with his peers, and, therefore, that is in the interest of arriving at judicious conclusions. I am proud to note that the House has today, by deciding to pass this Bill, shown its solidarity behind Prime Minister Modi's determined bid to liberate India from the stigma of corruption. I request the House that the Bill may be passed and Section 25A may be suitably amended to include this clause.

*The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted.*

*Clauses etc., were adopted.*

*The Bill, was passed.*

**P. C. MODY,**  
*Secretary-General.*

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