

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Tuesday, November 30, 2021 / Agrahayana 09, 1943 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Heavy Rains in Tamil Nadu

SHRI G.K. VASAN: The State of Tamil Nadu is reeling under heavy rains for the past one month. The lakes, dams, reservoirs, and other water bodies have been overflowing. The streets of the Chennai city and neighbouring districts have been flooded. The Cauvery delta has been completely damaged. The farmers today are suffering because of continuous rains. Schools and colleges have been continuously closed. Roads and bridges have been damaged. The Tamil Nadu Government needs assistance. It is requested that a Central Government team visit and inspect and the Government restore normalcy by giving financial aid to Tamil Nadu.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

2. Unprecedented Heavy Rainfall and Damage in Bengaluru and Request for Intervention and Assistance of Central Government

SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY: Incessant heavy rains in Karnataka from October, particularly in Bengaluru, has thrown life

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

topsy-turvy, inundated and damaged many houses, lakes overflowed, damaged various infrastructure facilities in the Silicon city of India and at other places. The untimely incessant rainfall all over the State has caused extensive damage to standing crops, most of which were in the harvesting stage. Civic Authorities and the Government of Karnataka have been doing everything they can in relief, rescue and restoration work. But, it is not enough since the damage is enormous. I request the Government of India to (1) Send IMCT immediate to take up on-spot assessment of damages to release relief from NDRF; (2) Release Rs. 2000 crores as immediate financial assistance to take up relief, rehabilitation and restoration works in a fixed timeframe and carry out repairs to roads, storm water drains, storm water drain networks, etc.; and (3) To constitute an Expert Committee to study the causation of such extreme events and study the change in climatic conditions, etc. and suggest a concrete plan of action.

(Dr. Amar Patnaik, Shri Subhash Chandra Singh, Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti, Shri Narayana Koragappa and Shri Irranna Kadadi associated.)

3. Need to Provide Financial Assistance to Andhra Pradesh for Losses due to Heavy Rains and Floods

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: It is a very important issue relating to the people of Andhra Pradesh. Heavy rains triggered by a depression over the Bay of Bengal on the 18th of November led to flash floods and wreaked havoc in Rayalaseema and South Coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. The unprecedented rains and floods caused breaches to reservoirs, thereby inundated villages and towns in Andhra Pradesh. Roads, bridges, railway tracks were extensively damaged. Electricity utilities have been uprooted. Houses were either washed away or inundated in flood waters rendering thousands of people homeless. Farmers have also suffered huge losses. Despite sincere efforts of the Government of Andhra Pradesh in conducting rescue operations and undertaking relief measures in the affected areas, the current situation on the ground needs Centre's assistance. In this hour of crisis, it is imperative that the Union Government step in to provide much-needed assistance to see that the State rises again.

The Government of India and the hon. Finance Minister are urged to provide interim relief package of Rs. 1 000 crores to Andhra Pradesh.

DR. C. M. RAMESH: Due to heavy floods two dams have been damaged. No alert notice has been given or taken any precautionary measures and that is the reason why many villages have been damaged. Thousands of livestock washed away in flood waters. The hon. Prime Minister called the hon. Chief Minister on that day and enquired about the situation in Andhra Pradesh. But, officials have not given any precautions to the villagers. That is why, the Government machinery has to act properly and give precautions to the people.

(Shri Y. S. Chowdary, Dr. Amar Patnaik, Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar, Shri Subhash Chandra Singh and Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti associated.)

4. Deterioration of the Condition of Environment of Goa

SHRI LUIZINHO JOAQUIM FALEIRO: This is a very important issue as far as the people of Goa as well as its environment is concerned. Goa is known as an abode of peace and tranquillity and our forefathers have painstakingly preserved and protected our environment. Goa is also known as a tourists' destination. But the Government of the day has signed for transportation of 13 million tonnes of coal through Goa, through Karnataka which can become a potential health hazard for the people of Goa. Similarly, the three linear projects such as the double tracking of railway lines, expansion of National Highway and the third project of Tamnar Power Transmission Project which are mainly to transport coal from Goa to the hinterland, have not only devastated our forests but also the wildlife sanctuaries.

5. Minimum Wage as per the Seventh Pay Commission to Anganwadi workers

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA SINGH: I would like to draw your kind attention towards the importance of Anganwadi

workers as frontline health workers. It has increased significantly after the outbreak of pandemic. Despite the extra burden of work, their salaries have not sufficiently increased and are often delayed. Despite the fact that 7th Pay Commission has fixed the monthly wage as Rs. 18,000 for skilled workers, they barely receive this much salary. Thus, I urge the Government to improve their status.

(Dr. Amar Patnaik, Shri Prasanna Acharya, Shri Nekkanti Bhaskar Rao and Dr. Sonal Mansingh associated.)

6. Need to Provide booster COVID-19 vaccine Doses

DR. NARENDRA JADHAV: The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated the recently-discovered strain, Omicron, as a variant of concern. The variant has so far been found in South Africa, Botswana, Hong Kong and Belgium. This variant in comparison to Delta is a "high to very high" risk. In India, this Omicron Variant has already renewed the fears of a third wave of the pandemic. I urge the Government to come out with a policy for booster dose and issue necessary instructions to the States for vaccination as soon as possible.

7. Need for Conserving Historical Fort of Raja Yayati at Jajmau in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV: The fort of Raja Yayati at Jajmau, Kanpur is in a very bad condition. Although the Department of Archeology has taken it under its control yet no work is being done for its development. It is a fort which has been occupied by people and land mafia. I want that the survey department should do good work on this fort which has been taken under its aegis by the Archaeological Department so that this Yadav fort can be saved, the honor and respect of the Yadavas would rise and the name of King Yayati would spread across the country and abroad.

(Shri Subhash Chandra Singh, Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti and Dr. Amar Patnaik associated.)

8. Need to Promote Production of Bricks etc, using Fly Ash Produced by Power Plants

SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: The issue of fly ash has been bugging our environmentalists for a long time. The coal consuming units are generating a lot of fly ash. It has become quite popular and now these fly ash generators themselves want to consume it and commercially exploit it. Some new regulations are now coming in which there is a provision to allow dumping of fly ash into ponds I request that such a provision should not be there and these small enterprises should be encouraged

(Dr. Amar Patnaik associated.)

9. Need to Increase Odisha's Labour Budget under MNREGA to 25 Crore Person Days for the year 2021-22

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: The pressure on rural jobs has increased all over the country. The people's demand for jobs under NREGA has increased manifold. the Honorable Chief Minister of Odisha has made a request to the Central Government that we need at least 25 lakh crore mandays of labour budget to be made for Odisha because not only have the urban jobs decreased but the people who have migrated have also not yet left for the places where they had earlier migrated.

10. Problems being faced by PVC Pipe Fitting Industry and MSME Sector

SHRI HARDWAR DUBEY: I want the attention of the government to the PVC pipe and fitting industry of MSMEs. According to NGT to obtain a license from BIS the manufacturers will have to manufacture PVC pipes and fittings according to the manufacturing standard and for this a laboratory will also have to be constructed in the factory which is very expensive from the economic point of view . The manufacturer would not able to bear that much burden. The PVC pipe and fitting industry produces a good amount of recyclable materials (rejected). Disposing of recyclable materials as waste will increase environmental pollution. BIS Even if the standard

marked BIS pipe starts to be produced then the market price will be very high due to which our farmers will also be financially burdened.

(Dr. Amar Patnaik associated.)

SPECIAL MENTIONS

1. Demand to Formulate a Policy for Granting Bail to Under-trials Languishing in Jails

SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Currently, there are about 70 percent undertrials in Indian jails who have been waiting for bail for a long time. There are some undertrials who have served more sentence than the sentence pronounced by the sections under which they have been tried. As the number of undertrials increases, the expenses of prisons will also increase. I demand that in view of the increasing number of undertrial prisoners, the government should make a formula policy for bail on the basis of which the courts can grant bail so that the fundamental rights of the person can be protected.

(Shrimati Roopa Ganguly associated.)

2. Demand to Restore Old Pension Scheme for Government Employees

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: The government employees of the country have been deprived of the benefits of the old pension scheme since January 1, 2004. New pension scheme been implemented. As a result, the employees are going to get very less pension after their retirement. In view of this, government employees are worried about their old age. The new pension scheme is not enough to survive in this era of high inflation. My demand is that the government should restore the old pension scheme implemented before January 1, 2004 so that the retired employees can get pension in this era of high inflation which is enough for sustenance.

(Dr. Amar Patnaik and Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti associated.)

3. Demand for Early Resolution of All-India Strike by Junior Resident Doctors

SHRIMATI SEEMA DWIVEDI: I want to draw the attention of Government towards All -India strike conducted by Junior resident doctors for not declaring the result of NEET and PG till now. As the strength of doctors in hospitals is already very scarce and in the absence of non-induction of JR-I, workload upon JR-II is keep on increasing. Due to long working hours, their health is also deteriorating. Hence, it is demanded from the Government that it may appeal to Hon'ble Supreme Court to allow to declare the said result as soon as possible.

(Dr. Amar Patnaik and Lt. Gen (Dr.) D.P. Vats (Retd.) associated.)

OBSERVATION BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had moved a motion yesterday and passed by the House wherein some Members were suspended. A few people objected in that regard that nothing was said about those people at that time.

I want to state that the incident which occurred on 10.08.2021, about which I mentioned in the House on 11.08.2021:

"Hon'ble Members, I rise in deep anguish to place on record the way this august House is being subjected to sacrilege and that too propelled by a sense of competition among some sections of the House since the commencement of this Monsoon Session. Everything said or done, violating, hurting or destroying the sacredness of any place amounts to an act of sacrilege. We are a land of temples, churches, mosques and gurdwaras. These are holy places with demarcated sacred areas which are known as sanctum sanctorum. The Parliament, the apex legislature of our country, is regarded as the

temple of democracy. The Table area where the officers and the reporters of the House, the Secretary-General and the Presiding Officer are seated is considered as the holy sanctum sanctorum of the House. A certain degree of sacredness is attached to this place. In our temples, devotees are allowed only up to this sanctum sanctorum and not beyond. Entering this sanctum sanctorum of the House, in itself is an act of sacrilege and it has been happening as a routine for some time. I am distressed by the way this sacredness was destroyed yesterday. While some Members sat on the Table, some others climbed on the Table of the House, perhaps to be more visible with such acts of sacrilege. I have no words to convey my anguish and to condemn such acts. As I spent a sleepless night last night, I struggled to find out the provocation or reason for forcing this august House to hit such a low yesterday. A discussion on 'Agricultural problems and solutions' was listed. There can be a difference of opinion ..."

For your information, I have gone through that report. Four hours' time was allocated for agriculture; three hours forty-six minutes were taken by the hon. Members from all sides. No other speaker was left. The Bill got passed and the Minister had given reply to that. The List of Business includes the notices that are accepted by the Chairman and once the Chairman accepts any notice, that is final. That cannot be questioned. If some Members have other opinion, they can come to the Chair and meet him and then explain. When I was saying this also, there were interruptions. And, 'interruptions', 'interruptions', like that, and how can anybody say that no caution was given, no mention was made. I am deeply anguished. The nation is also anguished. I earnestly appeal to this House to seriously reflect on what happened yesterday and explore the remedies. There were also complaints saying that they had not been named earlier. On 11th August there were 33 Members who were named. Out of 33 Members, these 12 Members, who were suspended yesterday, through a Motion moved by the Minister. Some people are complaining that they should have been given another opportunity. I am happy only on one thing that though this is an unfortunate incident, the nation was able to see what had happened on 11th August because some of the television channels had shown it with names of who did what. It is really

unfortunate situation. As a Chairman, I am not happy to take action against anybody, for that matter; comment on anybody, but, at the same time, I have a sacred duty to see that the House is run. At last, the people are going to question the Chair and the House, not the individuals. Disturbances happened. It should not have happened, but it happened but that does not mean that you do it every day for 17 days in Question Hour, Zero Hour, Special Mentions and on the Bills. Another thing that I want to bring to the notice of the nation is that people are saying that Bills are passed in din. You create din and then you don't participate. I have the list. The names were called by the Deputy Chairman, but the Members refused to speak. The reason I am making this clarification is people are giving wrong information that there was no discussion on farmers' Bill.

Four hours were allotted but the Members did not choose to speak further as they were satisfied with their speeches. The outcome may not be up to their expectations. Then, the Minister also very patiently and cogently tried to reply. It may not be to the liking of some of the people. I do agree that in a democracy there will be a difference of opinion. You can put forth your point of view. You can criticise the Government. You can attack the Government, of course, not physically, and, then, you can protest also. The other way is to go to the people. Put forth your point here in the House and then please go to the people. But, I am seeing, instead of going to the people, we are going and giving bite and criticizing people who are silent spectators. I have done a calculation today. Nearly 93 per cent of the Members of the House want the House to run. They are from this side and that side also but they are silent. The majority is silent and a handful of people are violent. How do you reconcile to this reality? This has to be understood by one and all. It has been happening time and again. Someone was saying that there is no interest in seeing television or hearing the debates of Parliament, this House or that House, or even the Assemblies. This is the comment being made by general people. I am afraid, if you continue this trend, people will lose their faith in the system, which is very harmful for the country and the system as well. Yes, protest can be there. You made your point and you walked-out. You have got every right to walk out. I

also appeal to the House, when somebody is walking out, please do not make any comments. It is his or her right to walk out. It is your right to talk-out democratically or walk-out. You go to the people and create momentum. If a particular Government is there, and you do not like that Government, it is your pleasure. Go to the people, have their pleasure, the public pleasure. You change the Government. We have no problem. I am not here to defend the Government but I am here to see that the Members do not offend the Parliament or the people. This has to be understood by one and all. These names are there in the Bulletin. All these names are present in Bulletin no. 5570. There names are in that bulletin. Another thing is that there are instances, as I said, when action was taken for what they have done outside. It happened in the House. I remember, during the division of the State of Andhra Pradesh, action was taken on a large number of people. It is not that suddenly I have permitted the Minister and then some action has been taken. It is wrong to say that it is anti-democratic. Action has been taken to protect the democracy. When the Deputy Chairman is presiding over the House, he is the Chairman of the House, and, also, when any hon. Member from any party who is on the Panel of Vice-Chairmen is presiding over the House, he is the Chairman of the House. That is the system. Please see to it that the institution is respected, not because of any individual but because of the institution. This has to be understood by one and all. There are set rules, set guidelines and precedents set by our seniors earlier. They are very much there. It is not that suddenly this House has come into existence; suddenly I became the Chairman; suddenly you became the Opposition or you became the ruling Party. It is a cycle going on for years together since 1952. There are precedents. Keeping all these things in mind, I hope everyone will understand the situation and Members who have walked-out will come back to the House again, participate in the discussion and debate and do justice to the mandate given by the people to them as well as to this House.

OBSERVATIONS BY LEADER OF THE HOUSE REGARDING SUSPENSION OF MEMBERS

Leader of the House (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, this morning the way our opposition colleagues tried to allege on the Chair that the rules do not permit, it lowered the dignity of the entire House, because this decision was taken by the House that 12 Members of Parliament should be suspended. This topic was absolutely necessary. It was necessary to act on it after coming across the events of 11th August while ignoring many things.

The tradition of the House is that until the process of introduction of the Minister is not completed, he cannot participate in the proceedings of the House as a Minister. The Chair made a lot of efforts, but the Members of the Opposition were not ready to let the Hon'ble Prime Minister perform their duties. Hon'ble Prime Minister had to lay them on the Table of the House due to not being able to introduce his ministers.

Hon'ble Prime Minister gave the message of equality towards Purvanchal to the whole country. Brothers and sisters coming from tribal society got a chance to serve the country in the Union Cabinet today. When Hon'ble Minister Shri Ashwani Vaishnav Ji was giving statement while standing, the papers were snatched from his hands and every effort was made to obstruct him so that he could not give statement. This was done by the opposition in the last monsoon session.

I invite all the Hon'ble Members of the opposition to have division on whatever subject you want. The 'Dam Safety' Bill is slated to be discussed. You can ask for division on it whenever you want and we see who has the absolute majority. Hon'ble Deputy Chairman Sir, 11th was the last day of the Monsoon Session. We all were assembled here, but some Hon'ble Members behaved very badly here from the very beginning which was very worrying. What will be the dignity of this House and our Hon'ble Members by showing such a behaviour in this Upper House? The nation witnessed the dignity of Hon'ble Members of our opposition that day. The way the whistling and

hooting took place, was not good. Hon'ble Members were prevented from speaking by showing placards. Two Members were recording a video here and going out and showing the video recording on YouTube. In view of all these things, we demanded that a committee should be formed which will conduct a thorough inquiry into it. The Committee could watch the entire proceedings of the Monsoon Session of this House and decide against whom to take action and how the House function well controlled ahead. But despite every effort of the Hon'ble Chair, many opposition parties refused to be a part of the committee. Keeping these conducts in view, we proposed to take action against those Members who had behaved in such a way on 11th August, which this House has passed. It is the decision of this House that those 12 Members should be suspended. I would also like to say that the entire House wants that all our honourable Members come and the proceedings of the House be conducted smoothly. Such incidents will not take place in future, it can be discussed in the all-party meeting. This discussion can take place with the Chair or we can have a discussion with each other as to how the House should function in days to come. The Government is also ready to reconsider it, if a consensus is reached on how the House should function well.

P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.

rssynop@sansad.nic.in