

RAJYA SABHA

***SUPPLEMENT
TO
SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Friday, March 25, 2022/ Chaitra 4, 1944 (Saka)

SPECIAL MENTIONS - *Contd.*

3. Need for Conducting Decennial 2021 Census Immediately

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS: The availability of good data is critical to good policy-making. Apart from being used to demarcate constituencies, the census data is also vital to the administration, and planning of key welfare schemes.. It also measures migration by counting those whose current residence is different from their place of birth. The migration crisis of 2020 will not occur again. It can be calculated that migrant workers get healthcare and social service where they are. In the time like this, population information with its vital characteristics is invaluable to make interventions to help people. The COVID must not be the reason to delay it. I urge the Government to conduct the decennial census immediately.

4. Need for Fixing Iron Railing on Dividers on National Highways

SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that there is a heavy traffic of

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vehicles on all three National Highways.in the state of Rajasthan, i.e., National Highway No.-21 Jaipur to Agra, National Highway No.-12 Jaipur to Kota and National Highway No.-8 from Jaipur to Delhi. Many people lose their lives in accidents on daily basis due to heavy traffic. Also, some people carelessly cross the road on foot and two-wheelers thus causing more accidents. I request to install iron safety railings on the dividers of the said National Highways to prevent these accidents.

(Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas associated.)

PRIVATE MEMBERS RESOLUTION

Establishing Research Foundations at State and District Level on Lines of National Research Foundation for Reviving Indian Knowledge Traditions - Contd.

DR. VINAY P.SAHASRABUDHHE: We have been saying with certainty that the boundaries of a nation are not only geographically determined. To keep India's knowledge tradition alive, to preserve and develop it further, some institutional measures have been suggested and I support this proposal. Today in the year of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence, I am forced to present this type of a proposal. I believe that this fact cannot be ignored. The soft power is an important part of this traditional knowledge system itself. This soft power begins with spiritual democracy. I think that this is the fundamental of Indian thought. We never allowed the monopoly of any particular way of worship and that is something which we have to understand and respect. When we speak of spiritual democracy in India ,often people say that there is no competition. Spiritual democracy is the only guarantee of sustainable pluralism. I believe we should appreciate when we talk about India's traditional knowledge systems. Secondly, we want some kind of harmony with Mother Nature, without competition. The idea of Antyodaya and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is the basis of our reflective role which has emerged from our knowledge tradition. There is a shadow of colonialism on our entire education system. We have very famous

'Warli painting' like 'Madhubani' and 'Pattachitra' of Odisha. But unfortunately people in our art world call it 'craft' because of the shadow of colonialism and the paintings that have been drawn by Hebbbar Sahib or M.F. Hussain, is called 'art'. Who did this 'Art' and 'Craft'? This was done by the Britishers. We continued to hold on to the same line of thinking. We believe that it should be abolished. We are in favor of social harmony. Since this knowledge is a matter of tradition, in such a situation when we discuss textbooks, we see that there are many discrepancies in our textbooks. When the Parliamentary Standing Committee made an assessment on this subject as well, a student who studies in a school in Gurugram and has written a short book about how many distortions that are there are in history. He says that history book deals at length with Aurangzeb whereas only Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj has been described in just a few lines. Our own identity is related to traditional knowledge, so it is the responsibility of today's generation to keep it alive, safe and secure and hand over its heritage to the new generation. I thank Rakesh Sinha ji for drawing our attention to that responsibility and support his resolve.

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: We are proud of our ancient culture, tradition, knowledge-system and also our achievements in the fields of astronomy, medicine, art, literature and culture. So, it is definitely worthwhile to revisit our past. Prof. Sinha has urged the Government to establish research foundation to revive the Indian knowledge tradition. India spends the lowest on its R&D. when I say, R&D, it is research and development on pharma, on high-end technology, on semiconductor, on IT including research on literature, art and culture. We spend only 0.7 per cent of our GDP on R&D. I had the opportunity of living in Honolulu, Hawaii for two years. The native Hawaiians worship the Shivalinga. I was taken aback to see this. The question is are we doing enough to bridge the Indian culture with the native cultures of different countries? When we talk of micro cultures, have we done enough to protect, promote and disseminate our tribal practices? I think decolonization of our imagination, of our culture should be all inclusive. It should not be a political project. It

should rather be a socio-cultural undertaking involving people from all religions and all walks of life.

SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: It is truly exciting to go through this resolution. It dwells upon various streams and traditions of knowledge and excellence. However, the emotions run so high that any logical discussion or constructive criticism could be construed as an act of treason or anti national stance. The views of eminent scholars must be accommodated to arrive at a balanced decision, in this regard. It is not a sudden outburst of feeling and aspirations of self pride. It had remained suppressed for too long. Even our Chairman had supported this viewpoint by stating that there was nothing bad in saffronisation or promotion of mother tongues. We want to go back to our roots only to reclaim our lost glory. But, no one is willing to clarify as to why we were trying to forget and erase our history. If any query is made, it could be termed communal. Today, well-educated people are also supporting it. For them, they are practical thoughts. On the other hand, we have an example of Japan. They have no idea of religion but have made a huge progress by adopting the western culture and technology. But, when it comes to the rituals, they are purely Japanese and the girls over there proudly wear kimono. Going back in history, India used to be a world in itself. When we got globalized, we saw everyone and everyone saw us too. When the Chinese Buddhist monk Hwan Tsang visited India in the 7th century, he wrote about India . But, it is also a fact that he did not mention much about the southern part of the country and the old and prosperous state like Odisha. There was a contradiction between the Hindi-speaking areas and the non-Hindi speaking areas on cultural and religious grounds. Vinay ji also told about Panini. Panini was born about 200 years before Jesus Christ and wrote Sanskrit grammar. The Vedas do not follow this grammatical structure. However, the grammar of Panini appears in the *Purusha Sukta* in the 10th Mandala of the *Rigveda* narrated by the sage Narayana. A book written by Dr. Debashish Gupta has criticized the *Manusmriti*. Today, except for the political issue, the concept of *Manusmriti* is not accepted by the common Hindu or the common man. He has said that those who were our saints used to eat meat and liquor. Today, it would not be

appropriate if we ill justify any one class in the name of Manusmriti. I think our efforts should be constructive. This research should reach everyone. Until these distortions are discussed in detail, we cannot remove them. All I can say about Kashmir file is that it was a sad incident. A huge incident happened in the country and the entire facts were not revealed before society. There was no way to address it. Whenever Rakesh Sinha ji talks about Nalanda, he talks about Bakhtiyar Khilji. This country will have to decide who were the invaders on us. Will we glorify those who destroyed our civilization? The time has come that these things should be discussed. Shall we not send a message to the invaders that those who destroyed our Nalanda University do not deserve respect. If someone says not to do this, then we should think on him that he is a narrow minded person. The rule that existed before the British Raj was also the rule of foreign invaders. This feeling was there at that time also and we are suffering from this thing even today. I would say that there are institutes for research on art and culture. We have to do research on these subjects. We have to bring these subjects forward. We have to take this decision. India is a country where we have maximum freedom of thought. There should be an organized effort for ideological freedom. I understand that expletives in the name of mother and sister are being openly in OTT and we all are accepting it. What could be a better example of ideological freedom than this!

DR. SONAL MANSINGH: I support the views expressed by Shri Rakesh Sinha Ji. I would like to briefly touch upon a couple of points. Dr. Sahasrabuddhe used the term "Soft Power". *(Speech unfinished)*

Discussion not concluded.

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Secretary-General.

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**ERRATA TO THE SUPPLIMENT OF SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE
DATED 24th March, 2022 AND
SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE DATED 25th March, 2022**

Page No.	Line No.	Correction
405	15	Read 'help' for 'hel['
407	13	Read 'the' for 'thr'
419	12	Read 'The report says' for 'After that came'
428	14	Read 'centered' for 'cantered'