

## RAJYA SABHA

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### \*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

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(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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Wednesday, August 3, 2022/ Sravana 12, 1944 (Saka)

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#### MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF CHAIR

##### 1. Need to Adopt Effective Measures to Support Education of Girl Students

**DR. SANTANU SEN:** We all know that the women literacy is one of the most important indicators for the development of a country. Unfortunately the women literacy is only 65 per cent which is far less from the expectation. This situation leads to women giving birth to more children, increase in mortality rate, more hardships for them and lack of knowledge of their rights. The known reasons are negative attitude, patriarchal psychology, poverty, problems related to accessibility to the schools and lack of female teachers. It is very unfortunate to note that in such a big country, the budgetary allocation for education as a whole is very meagre. Health expenditure per capita in respect of women is also very less. So far as the world ranking is concerned, it is at the 140th rank out of 190 countries. There is a project called 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao'. But unfortunately, 80 per cent of its total budgetary allocation was spent on advertisement only. The parliamentary committee on Empowerment of Women has categorically

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

mentioned that no monitoring or periodic upgradation has been done as far as this project is concerned. I wish to say that there are other projects of States like Kanyashree Project of Bengal and Sabooj Sathi, which have more accessibility.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

## **2. The Impact of Excess Rainfall and Flood like Situation on Farmers in Maharashtra**

**\*SHRIMATI RAJNI ASHOKRAO PATIL:** I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the devastation caused by heavy rains in Kolhapur, Mumbai, Thane, Nashik districts of Vidarbha including Gadchiroli due to heavy rains in the month of July in Maharashtra. The central government team has gone to Vidarbha only to take stock of the damage. That team needs to visit Marathwada and other areas as well. The people affected by rain should get help at the earliest. The first installment of compensation is paid. The second installment is given by the central and state governments together, which should be given at the earliest, only then the farmers will benefit from it. Due to this heavy rain, the top layer of the land got washed away. Because of this, the farmers have to bear the loss for many years, so the Government should come forward and provide long term help. In such a crisis, along with the farmers, their families also have to face problems. Therefore, the government should help for the education of the children of farmers studying in schools and colleges. Due to this rain, the snail is destroying soybean, the main crop of Marathwada. All these things should be taken care of and assistance should be provided to the farmers affected by heavy rains.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

## **3. The Permission given to Dock a Chinese Spy Submarine at Hambantota Port of Sri Lanka**

**SHRI VAIKO:** Sri Lanka has allowed Chinese submarine war ship to dock in Hambantota port this month, despite India's concerns. Sri Lanka has said that it was only to refuel and replenish supplies but I would like to

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\* Spoke in Marathi.

tell the House that it is research and survey ship, Yuan Wang 5, which would be used to spy on India's activities and strategic interest. The ship will reportedly spend a week there. The visit of the ship would compromise our national security and coastal security. It will have serious bearing on India's security and economic and strategic interests and nuclear, maritime and coastal facilities. I would urge upon the Government to take all measures to safeguard its shore and vital strategic interests. The Government should talk tough on the diplomatic front also to see that the Chinese ship does not indulge in spying and other activities. I demand that the Minister should make a statement on the floor of the House about this serious matter.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

#### **4. Exclusion of Many Children in the age Group of 0-5 Years from PM-POSHAN Scheme due to mandatory Linkage of Aadhar**

**SHRI BINOY VISWAM:** The Pradhanmantri Poshan Yojana is meant to assist the children of poor families to have healthy growth. But a new direction by the Government regarding linking with Aadhar is causing problems. In villages and in poor families, the parents don't have Aadhar cards. That means the children of those families are denied of this right. Linkage of Aadhar in this case is a wrong step. So, please see that it is repealed immediately.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

#### **5. Need for issuance of guidelines to State Universities to remove Graduation Merit for Appointment of Assistant Professor as in the Central Universities**

**SHRI BRIJLAL:** Regarding the criteria for the appointment of assistant professors in state universities, colleges, the guidelines of the University Grants Commission are that a general category candidate should have 50 percent, other backward classes student should have 45 percent and the scheduled castes/tribes 40 percent of at the post-graduation level. But there are many states which have implemented this criterion even at the undergraduate level. The Government of India should issue a guideline that

the guidelines of the University Grants Commission regarding applications for the appointment of Assistant Professors should be applicable everywhere.

*(Shri Kanakmedala Ravindra Kumar, Smt. Vandana Chavan, Dr. Fauzia Khan, Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas and Dr. Santanu Sen associated.)*

#### **6. Water Logging due to Heavy Rains Causing Distress to the Farmers of Punjab**

**\*SANT BALBIR SINGH:** I wish to draw your kind attention to Malwa region of Punjab. There are two districts, namely, Muktsar and Fazilka in Punjab which are suffering due to heavy water logging because of excessive rains. Cotton crops and paddy crops are destroyed in several villages. These families do not have green fodder also. A farmer has committed suicide. Estimates of the revenue officials say that one lakh acres of crops in Muktsar district and 41 thousand acres of crops in Fazilka are drowned in water. Another big problem with Fazilka is that it shares borders with Pakistan. Now, on the Pakistani side, there is a Bundh which does not allow water to flow from Fazilka into Pakistan. Therefore, that entire area in Fazilka is afflicted with excessive water logging. That water is polluted and that water logging is causing many serious diseases. Children with disability are being born in village after village. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to ensure that, drainage of that water is arranged and the Bundh on the Pakistani side is opened, The affected farmers should also be given relief. The Central Government as well as the Government of Punjab should also contribute in resolving this constant problem of water logging.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

#### **7. Need for Proper Maintenance of the Elephant Corridor in the Simlipal National Park**

**SHRIMATI MAMATA MOHANTA:** The Forest and Environment Department is not recognizing Simlipal Park in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha as a National Park. In this forest animals are hunted down and trees are cut. Wild animals wander into the area of the villages. Initially this corridor was made for elephants, but now this elephant corridor is not being

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\* Spoke in Punjabi.

repaired, that is why wild elephants lose their way and enter into the villages and urban areas .Mostly they enter into the areas of Rasgovindpur, Benoti, Silpad Bangriposi, Chitarda, Saraskana, Bisoi blocks of Mayurbhanj district and do a lot of damage to agriculture and cause loss of lives. I request the Forest and Environment Department to repair the Elephant Corridor in Simlipal, protect the life of wildlife and people and recognize Simlipal as a National Park.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

#### **8. Need to Grant Social Security Benefits to the Seafaring Community of Goa**

**SHRI LUIZINHO JOAQUIM FALEIRO:** The seafarers' community in Goa has contributed a lot for the economy of the country because they used to remit foreign exchange. During Covid-19, the Goan seafarers have played a yeoman service all over the world. But it pains me that even though every alternate house in Goa has a seaman, their condition is very bad. Because of overall economic meltdown, there is rampant unemployment and there is hardly any system to give them pension. The Shipping Ministry should look into the matter. They were getting a pension of Rs.200/- per month. That also has stopped. Either enhance this amount or bring an honourable pension scheme so that they and their families can live a life of honour and dignity for having contributed so immensely for the economy of this country.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

#### **9. Need to Probe the Irregularities in the Construction of "Gaushalas" under the MNREGA scheme in Madhya Pradesh**

**SHRI RAJMANI PATEL:** Madhya Pradesh government approved the work of construction of Gaushala in Rewa under MNREGA scheme. For this work, the Panchayat was appointed as the construction agency. But most of the construction work of the Gaushala was snatched from the village panchayats by the district officials without any uthority and given to the outsiders of the state and the district, who lured unemployed youths and collected one and a half to two lakhs from them in the name of security amount. The map of the Gaushalas were made by the government engineers.

The contractors/unemployed also started work at many places but they were not paid for the same. The payment was made without the approval and monitoring of the Gram Panchayats, which is completely illegal. In this regard, requests were repeatedly made to the Chief Minister and Ministers for investigation and action, but till date no investigation has been done. I urge upon the Government that this matter should be investigated by the senior officers, the pending amount of the unemployed should be paid and action should be taken against the members and officers working against the law.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

#### **10. Need to Provide Home Delivery of CSD Canteen Products**

**SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH:** The service of CSD canteen is provided by the Indian Army to provide various items at affordable rates to the ex-servicemen and serving soldiers. These canteens are usually situated close to the location of various regiments or are located in major cities of the country where army personnel or officers reside in majority. Many ex-servicemen can not get adequate service through these canteens. The way companies like Flipkart and Amazon do home delivery of their products, the facility of CSD canteen should be made available using the same technology. It will enable more and more serving soldiers and ex-servicemen to use this facility.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

#### **11. High Cost of Medical Treatment in the Country**

**SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:** It is a matter of fact that India is the third largest manufacturer of medicines, and we have the lowest production cost also. But, unfortunately, the medical inflation in this country is very high, if we compare it with other Asian countries. According to a report of the Ministry of Statistics, in this year itself, it shot up by 7.21 per cent. It is very difficult for an ordinary Indian to afford medical costs. We have 355 essential medicines and the prices of all these medicines are steeply hiked. Sixty-three per cent of expenditure is for medicines as far as the lower middle income groups are concerned. So, I request that we need to rethink about our medical policies. We need to spend more on healthcare, and

pharma companies must be controlled at any cost. There is a reason for Supreme Court verdict which says that medical companies are giving freebies to doctors which are banned by law but even then, they are claiming tax exemption also. Therefore, I urge the Government to make 'Health' a Fundamental Right.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

## **12. Attacks on the Gurudwaras and Sikhs in Afghanistan**

**SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH:** I stand up to speak about the attacks on Gurudwaras and Sikhs in Afghanistan. This is an issue which has not only hurt the sentiments of every Sikh living in any corner of the world, but it is also an attack on the very identity of being a Sikh. Why are we alone being targeted? Food, oxygen etc. were made available to the people during Kovid in Gurudwaras around the world. We all know about the contribution of Sikhs of the country after independence. Sikhs have always been at the forefront in every field whether it is GDP, employment or charity. The Sikh community has been a strong link in relations between India and other countries. They are known for their courage, valor and hard work. Despite all this, why are we being treated like this? On June 18, there were several explosions at Gurdwara Dashmesh Pita Guru Gobind Singh Karta Parwan in Kabul in which two people died and many were injured. On March 25, 2020, ISIS suicide gunmen attacked Gurdwara Har Rai Sahib in Kabul, killing 25 Sikhs, including children. Another attack happened again the day after their funeral. In 2018 suicide bombers attacked a gathering in the eastern city of Jalalabad. Afghanistan was once home to thousands of Sikhs and Hindus, but due to decades of conflict, this number has now dwindled to a handful. Now there are only around 150 Sikhs there. I urge the government to take these attacks very seriously.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

## **13. Need for Urgent Measures to make Cancer Treatment Affordable**

**DR. AMEE YAJNIK:** Recent report of the Indian Council for Medical Research shows that the number of Indians suffering from cancer is projected to increase to 29.8 million in 2025. According to Health Minister's reply to a question in Lok Sabha every thirteenth cancer patient is an Indian

in the world. Every year, 1.5 million new cases are diagnosed. Cancer centres are mostly in cities and people coming from villages have to travel far and wide to see that the patient gets cancer care. That is also expensive. I would urge the Government that there should be more investment in the infrastructure for cancer patients. The 325th Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests and Climate Change also pointed out the fact that there should be availability of adequate facilities in local regions. There should be affordable and equitable care for cancer patients. The Report also pointed out that six crore people are pushed below the poverty line because of incurring this cost. I would urge the Government to take this issue seriously.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

#### **14. Need for Age Relaxation for the EWS Category**

**DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAI:** I would like to raise an important issue related to youth here. Respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made a provision of 10 percent reservation for poor upper castes on economic basis, but one thing is missing in the system of that reservation and that is just as 5 years relaxation in the upper age limit exists in other reservations, that exemption should have been given in the reservation for poor upper castes also on economic basis. I want to request the government that the central government should issue an order to extend this relaxation in the upper age limit to the poor upper castes.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

#### **15. Need for Regularisation of Labourers Working in Railway Godowns**

**SHRI SANJAY SINGH:** Millions of workers have been working in railway warehouses from generation to generation over the years. The contractors have been exploiting those workers for a long time. Their only demand is that they should be protected from exploitation of contractors and action should be taken against such contractors.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*



**16. Need to Expedite Construction of Shiradi Ghat Tunnel Road  
between Bengaluru and Mangaluru In Karnataka**

**SHRI NARAYANA KORAGAPPA:** People of Karnataka, particularly from Mangaluru are grateful to the hon. Minister of Road Transport for making an announcement that highest priority would be given to Shiradi Ghat Road between Bengaluru and Mangaluru on NH-75. Mangalore is the second largest business centre in Karnataka. Being one of the five cities in the country to have a major port and an international airport, Mangaluru is an important and second fastest growing non-metro city. There is a huge potential and scope for pushing economic activity to a new horizon in Mangaluru, thereby creating huge employment opportunities for the people in this region. But all these activities would come to a standstill more particularly during monsoon season. The problem of landslide at various places of this Ghat road becomes the order of the day during monsoon impacting economic activity and disrupting vehicular movement. There is only one solution for all these ills and it is to take up Shiradi Ghat between Bengaluru and Mangaluru on the National Highway-75.

*(Dr. Fauzia Khan, Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas, Dr. Santanu Sen, Dr. Amar Patnaik, and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)*

**17. Alleged Irregularities in Functioning of BALCO in  
Korba District of Chhattisgarh**

**MS. SAROJ PANDEY:** Bharat Aluminum Company is today the most important company in the country and is counted among the largest producers. Even after producing 5 lakh tonnes today, this company is doing injustice to the local people there. This company got allotted land for its expansion keeping the local administration in the dark. The permission given by the local administration is illegal. The local people are not getting any benefit from it. It repeatedly shows itself in loss in audit reports regarding the work it should do there under CSR. Even after increasing the production manifold, this company is continuously in loss, so the government should investigate it.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

## **SPECIAL MENTIONS**

### **1. Need to do Away with Minimum Balance Rule in Fastags**

**SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA:** The FASTag, was unilaterally mandating a minimum amount value for the FASTag account or wallet, in addition to the security deposit amount. As a result, many FASTag users were not allowed to pass through a toll plaza in spite of having sufficient balance in their FASTag account which resulted in delays at the toll plazas. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has recently decided to remove the mandatory threshold amount for the FASTag account or wallet, for the passenger segment. But due to the infrastructure and management issues of the FASTag service, in most of the toll plazas, the users got wrongly charged double for insufficient balance. Hence, I request the Union Government to immediately look into this issue with utmost priority and take the necessary steps to rectify this issue.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

### **2. Need to Curb Unfair Practice of Import of Jute Sacking Bags as Hessian Fabric through Nepal**

**SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY:** As per the Notification No.01/2017-Customs (ADD) of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance imposition of definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of jute yarn/twine, hessian fabric and jute sacking bags originating in or exported from Nepal and imported into India has been recommended. As per the said notification, ADD on hessian fabric is either nil or lower than ADD on sacking bags. To circumvent the actual levy, a section of traders in Nepal are reportedly resorting to the unfair practice of passing off jute sacking bags as hessian fabric as a result of which our domestic jute industry is not only suffering but also our Government is losing huge revenue. I would, therefore, urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to have the matter inquired into for appropriate remedial measure.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

### **3. Need for Additional Stoppage of Rajdhani Express at Rangiya Junction, Assam**

**SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN:** I would like to draw your kind attention to a decade-long pending issue of an additional stoppage of 12424 Rajdhani Express at Rangiya Junction. People are compelled to go to Guwahati Station by hiring cars losing hard earned money and spoiling their precious time. Assam is a frontier State and its people have to spend much more time in reaching New Delhi by train. There is only one daily service of Rajdhani Express train . Due to some faulty arrangements, users have to face many hurdles. Rangiya Station is the junction point . In the absence of an additional stoppage at Rangiya junction, the people of nearby areas are facing a huge problem in boarding the Rajdhani Express. I urge the Government for stoppage of Rajdhani Express at Rangiya Junction.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

### **4. Need for completion of Jeypore and Utkela Airports**

**SHRI MANAS RANJAN MANGARAJ:** I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the unprecedented delay in completion of two airports in Koraput and Kalahandi districts. The airports were planned along with Jharsuguda Airport way back in 2017. While the Jharsuguda Airport has become operational, people in Koraput and Kalahandi are still awaiting their dreams to be materialized. Both Koraput and Kalahandi are known as the gateway to commercial hubs in the neighbouring States. I request the Government to kindly take up this matter on a high priority and ensure that both Airports become operational as soon as possible in the larger interest of the people.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

### **5. Need to Stop the Misuse of Subsidized Urea Meant for Agriculture**

**SHRI KAILASH SONI:** The chemical fertilizers of farmers are being robbed by black marketing. The flying squad of the Ministry of Fertilizers has seized urea worth 100 crores in the last two months. As a result of preventing leakage and smuggling of urea, the availability of urea has increased in the market. The industrial units which consume urea have started using only farm neem coated urea, whereas heavy subsidy is given

on farm urea. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Fertilizers and Food that in order to check this, the government should immediately transfer the subsidy amount directly into the account of the farmers, which will also save the government's rupees 6,000 crore per year.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

**6. Need to Restore Concession on Railway Tickets for Senior Citizens and Differently Abled Persons**

**DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:** The railways had withdrawn train services and cancelled the fare concession for senior citizens and differently abled persons since the Covid-19 lockdown. Full restoration of train services are yet to happen even after two years. The Government is running 70 per cent of trains as special trains with higher fares. Poor passengers have to spend more money for their travel by train even for a short distance. Therefore, I urge the Government to restore normal train services completely, reduce the fares in special trains and provide the concessional fare tickets immediately.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

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**GOVERNMENT BILL**

**THE NATIONAL ANTI-DOPING BILL, 2022**

**THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING; AND THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR), moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said:** The proposed Bill intends to accomplish building institutional capabilities in anti-doping and enabling hosting of major sporting events, protecting rights of all sportspersons, ensuring time-bound justice to athletes, enhancing co-operation among agencies in fighting doping in sports, reinforcing India's commitment to international obligation for clean sports, independent mechanism for anti-doping adjudication, providing legal sanctity to anti-doping agency which we generally call NADA and NDTL which is National Dope Testing Laboratory, establishing more dope testing labs, creating job opportunities, both directly and

indirectly, and creating opportunities for academic research, science and manufacturing relating to the anti-doping. Overall, this will benefit the game and the players. That is why this bill has been brought in the interest of the game and the players.

**DR. JOHN BRITTAS** : The Bill to provide for the constitution of the National Anti-Doping Agency for regulating anti-doping activities in sports and to give effect to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation International Convention against doping in sport, and compliance of such other obligations and commitments thereunder and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Lok Sabha, be referred to a Select committee of the Rajya Sabha, consisting of the following Members:-

1. Shri Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya
2. Dr. John Brittas
3. Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha
4. Shri Jose K. Mani
5. Shri A.A. Rahim
6. Shri Tiruchi Siva
7. Dr. V. Sivadasan
8. Shri K.C. Venugopal

with instructions to report by the last day of the first week of the next Session (258th) of the Rajya Sabha.

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA**: The names of many eminent sportspersons who have been famous players in their respective sports have come in the doping. Those who have done the work of bringing down the dignity of sports and sportspersons. That is why efforts are being made to control doping at the international level and India is playing a positive role in those efforts. We stand here to support this bill. International convention against doping in sports came in 2005. That has been ratified by our government in 2007, we are moving towards following the same completely. They raised a point that all national anti-doping organizations

should be operationally independent of governments. I would like to suggest to you about some points which are related to this Bill. A few things have been taken into consideration by the Standing Committee, like they have a very good suggestion, but you have not taken it into account, that is, all those who are athletes and sportspersons have been put in 'A' category. If there is any disciplinary action against someone, it will be in 'A' category only. It should be divided into two different categories. For minors, the 'WADA' itself has put players under the age of sixteen in a separate category. Today's situation is that we do not have any testing at the district level, we organize sports at the state level, but there is no testing and I would also like to tell you that there is no testing at the national level also. This is very less. My demand is that if we do not talk about the district level, at least at the national and state level this testing should be done somewhere. The board that you are creating will decide the fate of players, that board can remove anyone in the disciplinary panel and in the appeal panel without assigning any reason. Therefore, it is very important that the grounds for removal are well mentioned. Third, which is not within the scope of this Bill, but it is important. If a player has to make a final appeal after the Appeals Panel, he must go to the Court of Arbitration, Lausanne, Switzerland. This has been decided by the World Anti-Doping Authority (WADA), so if one of our players goes to Switzerland to appeal, how much will it cost. Our India is the fastest emerging country in the background of the world, so our demand should be that the Court of Arbitration has its Bench in Europe, then why it should not be in Asia, so that our players do not have to appeal to Switzerland. They could appeal within our country. I would like to give one more suggestion that provisions of punishment made in this law are of general nature, there is no specificity in them. So somewhere, you must definitely bring some specificity in it. We have come up with a policy in Haryana, 'Get medals, get post and get prestige.' The result of it was that out of 39 gold medals, 22 gold medals came from Haryana state alone in Common Wealth Games, 2010. If the player reaches a level and is given government employment, he does not have to worry so much about his future. You should take this policy to the national level, so that these youths fill the country's bag with medals and we can move further in the coming time.

**LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.):** I would like to add one thing that if there is mention of sports and Haryana is not mentioned, it will

remain incomplete. There is a saying in Haryana that the boys of Haryana and now even the girls also are either in the field or in the army and or in sports, if these three places are not available and they have not got a job, the chances of their going to jail also increases. I would like to make a point about the integrity of the laboratories. It is written in that the rights of the athlete should not be encroached upon. I have an experience from NABL Laboratories. My experience is that there is less corruption in getting the sample approved. But there is a lot of corruption in rejecting the sample. Athletes should not fall prey to this thing, so at least like NABL, the integrity of these laboratories should also be taken care of. We have a very bitter experience of statutory bodies and independent bodies. We dispensed with the Medical Council of India and Delhi High Court had to tell or label it to be a 'den of corruption.' As far as the selections in Committees and Boards are concerned, certainly, men of integrity and men of professional integrity should be appointed to those posts. Otherwise, it will become another futile exercise. So, that aspect should be taken care of. We must look into it and medical examinations should be brought in. They should be subjected to medical examination and physical examination. This discipline should be imposed on the coaches, on managers and even on doctors who are accompanying the Olympic teams or for other international events.

**DR. SANTANU SEN:** The World Anti-Doping Agency, was formed in 1990 under the International Olympic Committee. Then, WADA considered that there should be a doping agency in each and every country, and, accordingly, NADA was formed in November, 2009. It was proposed by the Standing Committee in 2020, and, thereafter, it has been converted into a statutory body. There are certain drawbacks of this Act. Firstly, there is a provision of Director General of NADA but his qualifications are not yet mentioned in the Bill. Secondly, it has been mentioned categorically in the Bill that the Government may remove the Director General at any point of time from the office 'on such grounds' but those 'grounds' have not been mentioned in this Bill. Thirdly, it has been mentioned that the term for Director General would be three years but it might be extended subject to the decision taken by the Government of India. There is a provision of National Board, and, within the National Board, there is a provision of Disciplinary Panel. There is also a provision for the Appeal Panel. Unfortunately, it has been mentioned that the Board can remove the members of this panel at any

point of time and even they might not be given any chance of being heard. There are certain Standing Committee recommendations. Selection and Appointment mechanism should be clear and transparent. There should be clear cut discrimination between major and minor athletes and physically challenged athletes. Specific SOP are needed regarding the therapeutic use exemptions. Penalty of an athlete should be proportionate to the amount of the offence done by that athlete. My next point is regarding the dope testing laboratory. Each State should have one laboratory. There is another confusion regarding 'athlete support personnel'. It needs to be mentioned clearly in the Bill. We should look into it, so that these bodies and these organisations can act neutrally and independently and they are not directly governed by the Government of India.

**SHRI N.R. ELANGO:** "Prohibited List" means the list of prohibited substances and prohibited methods specified by the Agency by regulations. "Use" means the utilization, application, ingestion, injection or consumption by any means whatsoever of any prohibited substance or prohibited method. This Bill is silent on the list of prohibited substances and who is going to decide that. This House has to decide what all the prohibited substances are. The Anti-Doping Rule or violations of Anti-Doping Rule is not categorically stated. Chapter III talks about constitution of National Board. The qualification for the Chairman or for the Members of the National Board is not given. This Bill is silent on the qualification of the Members and the Chairman. It will lead to appointment of persons by the choice of the Government in power. This will take away the independence of the Board itself. Now, it is a question of using a prohibited substance in a particular game or sports. When the athlete is there in the ground, he should be subjected to anti-doping test. Authorities cannot be given a power to go and search his house or place or residence. Prohibited substances under this Bill will have a different kind of procedure, namely, Criminal Procedure Code. A clear-cut procedure for search and seizure should be made. Though there is a provision for appeal before an appellate panel, the recommendations of the Standing Committee have not been considered before drafting the Bill. The Anti-Doping Bill is the requirement of the day. But the Bill has not considered the cases where a sportsperson is made to test positive in the anti-doping test through conspiracies. There is no clause or section provided for conducting investigations whether a sportsperson was cheated and by



conspiracy he tested positive. The Standing Committee, in its recommendations, exhaustively stated the issues to be identified in this Bill. First is, there is no provision regarding the data procured by the authorized agencies, namely, the personal data protection aspect of the accused of doping is not taken into account. Second is, there is no provision for the members of the disciplinary panel or the appellate panel and their removal. Third is, it fails to identify and make provisions in respect of applicability of the Bill to foreign athletes participating in India. Fourth is, there is no provision regarding compensation in case of false positive tests which destroys the career and reputation of an athlete. Fifth is, seeking access to lab reports and hiring experts to interpret those reports can be expensive and time-consuming and, thus, it affects the careers of athletes. There is no provision regarding penalties to be imposed on supplement products companies engaged, in contamination of supplement products, which can result in potential doping.

**SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA:** The Bill is seeking to curb the problem of disqualification of athletes due to use of steroids and other doping substances. It is a good step towards protecting our country's athletes. Athlete support personnel have also been made subjected to consequences of violation in the Bill. It will ensure more responsibility from their side as well and may lead to a decrease in doping cases. Provisions for Therapeutic Use Exemption will allow for regulation of banned substances as part of medical treatment. In India, a number of athletes do not actually intend to use any enhancement drugs or steroids. But, due to lack of knowledge regarding the presence of banned substances, most of the doping incidents take place. The regulations in the Bill make an athlete strictly liable for any banned substance entering their body. Whereas, the Bill should have provisions for making the National Anti-Doping Agency responsible for protecting the athletes from instances of accidental ingestion, through proper education and also by proper labeling of supplements and medicines etc. Localized awareness programmes must be conducted for all the stakeholders. Anti-doping programmes and presentations should be conducted in the vernacular languages. The Bill should also provide for a complete list of banned substances in regional languages. There is lack of laboratories in India that carry out such specific doping tests on supplements. The testing infrastructure should be increased. The cost of carrying out the tests is

high. The suspension of the country's National Dope-Testing Laboratory due to non-conformation to the International Standard posed additional problem. NDTL should be improved and more such labs should be set up in different States of India. Trained personnel have to be brought up across various levels. Mental pressure on athletes should be brought down. Sports without ethics and fair-play become a baseless competition. Hence, we need to protect our athletes.

**SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:** India signed the UNESCO Convention against doping in 2005 and it was ratified in 2007. It has taken so many years to bring in this Bill. The World Anti Doping Code makes a very clear distinction between majors and minors. It sets lesser punishments for the minors. The Bill should contain a separate provision to define 'minors' as persons below the age of 18 and a separate provision should be inserted to ensure that minors are subjected to lesser punishments. In the current Bill, the Central Government has control over appointment and removal of the Director General of NADA, which breaches the ideals contained in the WADA code. The Bill should have a provision for explicit qualifications for the Director General's appointment so as to ensure that no unfettered discretion is used by the Central Government in the Director-General's removal. India is emerging not only as a financially strong nation, but in sports also, we are emerging as a strong nation. These clear descriptions in our law will make it in tune with the various laws in other developed countries. In the case of Disciplinary Panel and Appeals Panel also, there seems a scope for Government interference. The UNESCO Convention against Doping in Sports requires the Government to be engaged in imparting educational programmes on anti doping. It also requires the Government to provide accurate information on the harm of doping to the ethical values of sports and the health consequences of doping. The Government may take note of these obligations and create educational and sensitization programmes for the athletes. Such programmes will be helpful in preventing violations of the provisions of the Anti-Doping Bill.

**DR. JOHN BRITTAS:** We have a social eco-system in Kerala, whereby we promote sports. The budgetary allocation for sports has gone down. We need to increase budgetary allocation to enhance the sports in this country. The government should consult Smt. P.T. Usha ji and use her talent

in promotion of sports. A portion of CSR earnings should be demarcated for sports. We have to catch our talent at young age. There is too much politics in sports bodies. Many sports bodies are headed by politicians, who don't have domain knowledge of sports. We need to think about games and sports other than cricket. I request the hon'ble Minister to have a wholesome view about all sports. We should develop our own sports medicines as a counter to the doping. We can use Ayurveda to have such sports medicines. We should have participatory element in sports, which is currently spectator-centric.

**SHRI SANJAY SINGH:** It is good that the Bill has been brought after intensive discussion at many levels. This Bill will help us to avoid such incidents in which national level sportspersons are declared failed in international level doping test, despite passing from NADA. At times, they are also conspired to fail the doping test. All such conspiracies will save our players through this Bill. In this country with a population of 130 crores, the budget for sports is only Rs 3,000 crores. This budget is insufficient. Players need financial help the most at the time of preparation, when their talent has to be refined. Under 'Mission Excellence', we help talented sportspersons of Delhi, who have the potential to win medals in major sporting events, to the tune of Rs.16 lakh annually. Apart from this, there is another 'Play and Progress Scheme' of the Delhi government. Under this, we groom such children, who possess talent in different sports from their childhood. The government of Delhi has set up a Sports University where sports is considered as education. We have taken several steps to promote sports in Delhi. Supporting this Bill again, I would urge the hon'ble Minister of Sports to enhance budget for sports as the current allocation for the same is very small.

**SHRIMATI PILAWULLAKANDI THEKKEYAPARAMBIL (Nominated), making her maiden speech, said:** I had the great opportunity of representing my country in more than a few hundred events as part of my sports 'tapasya'. I would like to look at the democratic processes of post-independent India through the open eyes of an athlete. Since independence, we have been providing various facilities for improving our sports. Our proud sports personalities have achieved rare achievements in hockey, wrestling and football at the Olympics venues. Our sportsmen have several achievements that inspire the younger generations in athletics, tennis and

other sports. I am happy to state that after 2014, our country has been making enviable progress in various fields, including unparalleled achievements in the field of sports . Facilities such as synthetic tracks, swimming pools and gymnasiums and other amenities are being made readily available. But there is one Department which needs more emphasis and that will be field of Sports Medicine and Sports Science. This is the time to become self-reliant, and, in those terms, I strongly suggest that Sports Science, Sports Medicine and Coaching should come under the scheme of our beloved Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji's dream project, "Atmanirbhar Bharat.' We are yet to open our eyes to the abuse of 'Doping' in our country which is a serious concern that needs to be addressed. When talented sport individuals are abusing performance-enhancing drugs, they are not only sacrificing their career and life for short-term benefits but they are also spoiling the talents of upcoming sports individuals who work very hard to improve their performance levels. In addition to this, they are also tarnishing the image of our country. It can improve only through the timely intervention of our Legislatures, the State, the people and the people's representatives, who should be more assertive regarding matters related to sports and should, by every means, ensure that better opportunities are created for our sports individuals to showcase their true talent and potential among the world nations.

**DR. FAUZIA KHAN:** Sport is a field that inspires love, affinity and brotherhood, and the general behavior of great sportspersons impacts the way our youth thinks or perceives life. While addressing the issue of doping in sports, we are also trying to address the value system in our youth. The growth of sports is a definite indicator of the growth of the nation. I must congratulate our young Minister, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur for his vision, dedication and contribution and for the fact that we are winning medals after medals in various competitions during his tenure. We need to carry out these awareness programmes at all levels, and, not just at the national or international levels regarding Anti-Doping Code. Before every competition, a session and a certification on anti-doping must be made mandatory as a precursor for the permission of the competition to the association. If that is done, the association becomes accountable to ensure that awareness for anti-doping is carried out by them. Also, screening is necessary not only at the international level but also at the District level.

**SHRI G.K. VASAN:** The Bill proposes the amendments in accordance with the World Anti-Doping Agency Code. Firstly, the personal data protection of athletes who are suspected of illegal possession and use of trafficking of drugs is missing factor which has to be looked into by the hon. Minister. If the athletes are suspected and later proved innocent, their privacy remains violated and they suffer social stigma. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to kindly look into this important aspect. Secondly, there are many instances when athletes have been tested positive for banned drug use for no fault of their own. Sometimes, they are found to have taken those drugs as part of their regular medicine prescribed by their own doctors, and, sometimes, as part of their nutrition supplements. I feel that there is a need to create proper awareness amongst sportspersons, coaches, doctors who specialize in sports medicines and other stakeholders to doubly check what nutrition supplements the athletes take. This Bill does not make any distinction between minor and major athletes. I hope that the Minister takes care of it while framing the rules. To conclude, we are already seeing the results of various initiatives taken by the Minister under the guidance of our hon. Prime Minister in the form of Khelo India and other Schemes for the promotion of sports, fitness and health awareness in the country. The results of medal wins from World Athletics Championship and Commonwealth Games are very encouraging, and we are on course to become sports superpower. With these words, I support the Bill.

**SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:** First of all, I support the Bill. One cannot go in the Olympics or in the Commonwealth Games overnight. It is an evolution which has been done by so many Governments. We are very happy that every day we can see so many medals. My suggestion is that there should be frequent testing of sportspersons. We should also create more awareness among sportspersons. And there should be an integrity campaign amongst sportspersons to feel responsible. I also agree with Mr. Vasan's proposal that we should have laboratories in every State.

**SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:** With regard to the National Anti-Doping Bill, I want to highlight some of its provisions about definitions. Almost 35 definitions are there in it. These definitions are there, but the List thereof has not been appended to this Bill. The Clause 5(1), Clause 7 and Clause 12 show these shortcomings. Even the Clause 15

talks about Director General. It says that the Director General shall be appointed by the Central Government from amongst person of integrity. Required qualification or eligibility has not been specified here. Again, the Clause 19 deals with power of entry, search and seizure. Power of entry, search and seizure should be exercised carefully. But that is not specified in Clause 19. The Clause 26 talks about constitution of National Dope Testing Laboratory. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) banned NDTL as it was not complying with the international standards prescribed by WADA. It not only brought the NDTL into disrepute but also Indian sports. In 2019, the maximum positive samples, 225 out of 4,000 samples, were reported in our country. In view of this, some precautions need to be taken.

**DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:** The AIADMK Party is supporting the Bill piloted by the young Sports Minister. He is not only active in politics but also in sports. Previously also, he headed many programmes. The Commonwealth Games are underway in the UK. India is showing a good performance. It is a credit to him as he is heading this Ministry. The main reason why we are bringing forward this Bill is that the Anti-Doping Convention is now the second most ratified of all UNESCO treaties with 191 States. All the countries have decided to encourage international cooperation to protect athletes and ethics of the sports, Our objective is to establish a National Board for anti-doping in sports and to provide for its composition, powers and functions. We have seen that there are malpractices in many sports boards. That is why, many Members objected to that saying that there are many cases against boards. When the Government is taking over, it is the responsibility of the Government. If anything happens, we have the right to raise the issue in Parliament and the Minister is responsible to answer that. The medicines are not purposely taken by sportspersons. Sometimes, some people are misusing it. That is a fact. They should be given proper information and guidelines. This is what all have said. the need for opening more dope testing laboratories in the country, preferably one in each State to cater to the needs of the country and also to become a leader in the South East Asian region in the area of anti-doping testing. I support this Bill.

**DR. ANIL AGRAWAL:** The National Anti-Doping Bill, 2021 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 17th December, 2021. Realizing the importance of this subject, it was also sent to the Standing Committee by

Hon'ble Speaker Lok Sabha and Hon'ble Chairman Rajya Sabha. After detailed discussions with all the stakeholders, most of the recommendations made by the Standing Committee were accepted by the Government. Based on that, now this Bill has now been introduced in the Rajya Sabha for consideration and passing. I am glad that most of the Members have welcomed it by rising above political considerations. A number of revolutionary steps have been taken in the field of sports in this country after 2014 and the number of medals is increasing. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has implemented the National Sports Code in view of all this. If it happens at the state level also, it will bring better results. Earlier, some families or groups used to control the sports federations, but after fixing the maximum tenures for office bearers, there has been a lot of transparency. '*Khelo India*' is also one such program which will prove to be a boon for this country in future and will double India's medal tally in 2028 Olympics. As far as the National Anti-Doping Agency is concerned under the present Bill, it will lead to a better coordination. Some of my colleagues told that Haryana and Kerala are far ahead in this field. I would also like to tell you that a lot of work has been done in Uttar Pradesh also during the last two years. A National Sports University in Meerut has been started in the name of Major Dhyanchand ji. I also want to say that the budget of sports should definitely be increased. However, the budget for sports has now been increased substantially as compared to the previous governments.

**DR. AMAR PATNAIK:** I am very proud to speak about a topic which is very close to my leader, hon. Chief Minister of Odisha, Shri Naveen Patnaik. After 41 years, India got a medal in the Olympics because of the impetus that was given to hockey by adopting that particular sport by our State Government for ten years. Now, the same kind of fillip is being given to other sports like football and women sports. When people applaud the medal tally of Haryana and Kerala, they forget that this is the new kind of incentivisation is required to the sports in India. We have 17 astro-turfs being developed in the 17 blocks of Sundergarh District because that is considered as the cradle of hockey in the entire country. This is the kind of incentive we have to do for both on the infrastructure side and for sportsmen. So, this is a structure which has come in to make us more credible in the international sports arena. I compliment the Minister for bringing this Bill. The most important aspect of this Bill is the anti-doping testing laboratories.

They are listed under Chapter VII. The provision relating to the Appeal Panel says that the Panel would consist of Chairperson, a retired High Court Judge, and a Vice-Chairperson, a legal expert, and four members, medical practitioners. However, it is a very broad field. I think sports doctors or sports medicine etc, should be categorically mentioned here. The International Journal of Pharmaceuticals published in 2017 says that out of 162 Ayurvedic formulations, 16 had the presence of substance prohibited by WADA. I have a case here where the athlete said that she had taken that particular medicine thinking that it will increase her long-term immunity. We cannot really cut and paste what the WADA has said. Our realities, Indian realities are different and that has to be factored into this particular provision. We have the National Medical Commission which has been set up now with three different verticals. It makes rules for Allopathy along with traditional medicines. Many of us have spoken about it. I would like to refer to one famous Cuban athlete who said that you can tell your athletes, your sportsmen, co-sportsmen, several things, but it is very important to have a policy for educating against doping. The awareness is very important because many of our sportsmen belong to communities or families, which are not well educated. Therefore, everything should be done keeping the interests of sportsmen in mind. I would also like to say about data protection. Until and unless the athlete has exhausted all chances, her or his name should not be disclosed to public. I think the athletes have to go through a series of processes which are very difficult. They would rather train rather than go for this process. I think that could be simplified. This simplification is possible if you can have some kind of a certification that this particular formulation is dope free. You can ask the pharmaceutical companies to make this certification. The selection process of the Director-General and Members must be based on certain minimum qualification, The sportspersons should not be relegated to the margins, as has been the allegation against the Indian sports all along.

**SHRI BINOY VISWAM:** It is a rare occasion when all the Members are united for a common cause. It is a day that we are devoting our time for sports and for the values of the sports. This Bill has been brought by a young Minister. We have P.T. Usha amongst us. Our state and our people used to call her the *Payyoli Express*. She used to run on the beaches of Payyoli. Usha has become a world renowned person and has come to Rajya



Sabha as a Member of the House. This too is a proud moment. Sir, on this day, when a new Bill on sports has come here, we have a reason to say that this is a moment of great hope. India is going ahead in the field of sports. Once I meet the mother of Chanu, the girl who won the gold medal recently in the Commonwealth Games. I appreciate her hard work. Today, the sports has become a way to get rich. We also heard General Vats who advocated inter caste marriages and moving away from petty politics. I support his views. On this Bill, I find a little problem with the National Boards. We talk about an agency. Thankfully, it is a statutory agency which will be different from erstwhile society. When we come to the Board, the Board is trying to become a State within the State. That Board has certain powers, and that power many a times is crossing the powers of the Agency.

**SHRIMATI S. PHANGNON KONYAK:** Doping continues to plague countries worldwide and especially more so in India. Five members of this year's Commonwealth Contingent failed their dope test which has once again highlighted the need for a more comprehensive and stringent anti-doping law in our country. India ranks third in the world when it comes to doping violations as per WADA 2019 Report. The Bills seeks to prohibit athletes, their support personnel and also other concerned persons such as coaches from indulging in doping. The National Anti-Doping Agency will be constituted as a statutory body which will be headed by a Director-General and NADA will be involved in planning, implementing, monitoring as well as investigating anti-doping activities and rule violations. It will disclose information such as which concerned rule was violated and consequences thereof. Once the Bill becomes an Act, NADA will have powers to search, conduct raids and seize. This Bill provides a legal framework to combat the menace of doping in India. We cannot be advocating for sporting greatness while conveniently turning a blind eye to doping. The Bill will build institutional capabilities in anti-doping and enable hosting of major sports events, protect all sportspersons' rights and will also reinforce India's commitment to international obligations. It will also provide for clean sport, providing independent mechanism for anti-doping adjudication.

**SHRI RAMJI:** Earlier, there were playgrounds in the villages and the countryside around us. Today, there is no place to play in villages, countryside and cities. Hima Das, Vandana Kataria, Urvashi Singh are names

who have come out of the environment of poverty, but have excelled in sports. There are more such children and they need basic facilities. I would request to bring a provision so that in every district, in every town, basic facilities of stadium, ground are provided. Also, those appointed to the Regulatory Body or Board of Directors should have some sports background. They must have been players of either national or international level or have won a medal. Along with this, there is a need for motivational policy and concrete infrastructure. If the government will provide these things, then the situation will improve.

**SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR:** According to the latest World Ant-Doping Agency Report released in 2021, India ranks third in doping. Just last week some of our Commonwealth Games athletes were disqualified after failing routine tests for performance enhancing drugs. It is important that Indian sportspersons do not fall prey to the lure of easy wins and engage in dishonest behaviour. The administrative set up of sport in the country should work to identify and nurture talent fairly and provide an environment of encouragement and guidance so that young players are not led astray. But the Bill does not make a sufficient distinction between minors and majors and this should be addressed under subordinate legislation so as to protect impressionable minors. The socio-economic reasons for doping have been overlooked. One of the major reasons behind doping is a sportsperson's desperation to register significant performances. Such performances determine the quality of the Government jobs and incentives they receive after their career in sports. The Government must change their perspective on the career of our athletes. Our sportspersons must be humanized. They cannot be looked at wins dispensing vending machines. Their needs and aspirations must be given the time and space they need as they strive to take our country to new heights each day. There must be provisions to prevent harassment of players. NADA should ensure that appropriate safeguards are implemented to protect the rights of athletes and to address the issues of privacy. More dope testing laboratories should be opened up to ensure better accessibility and speedy test results.

**SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA:** Preventing doping in the sports is the call of the hour. When I was elected as the President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation, the Federation was banned by the

International Federation due to many, many positive dope cases. This Government totally helps all the Federations. If players want to expose themselves outside India, the Government is allowing them. With the help and motivation of the Government the Indian sports is doing well.

**SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK:** The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) was established in India in the year 2009. It was established as an independent body, but there is no anti-doping law in our country to regulate doping control programmes, provide dope training or penalize anyone for violation. Therefore, the Standing Committee on Sports recommended an anti-doping law in the year 2020-21. The reason for bringing this law is that the level of sports and of players is increasing and getting stronger in our country. Programs like 'Khelo India', centers like SAI Centers are being implemented across the country, due to which village level talent is being explored. Children are getting a reward of Rs 50 lakh each in the wrestling competition. Today these sports persons are earning more. The rewards are getting more, so shortcuts are also being used more. Doping cases are also increasing. In the survey conducted by 'WADA' in the year 2019, India was at the forefront of violations. The supplements that people are taking these days are very easily available in the market, they are available online. They are black marketed by saying that they are organic, ayurvedic. Athletes don't even know about this. Sports persons as well as coaches, team staff, doctors and masseurs also need to be educated and informed. When we participate in international sports, we should know their laws. These events are held once in four years. Our athletes work very hard. They get one chance and if they get caught in the doping test, then their whole life is ruined. If they are found positive, their medals are taken away, their trophies are taken away, their certificates are taken away, they lose their jobs and they don't even get a chance to participate in any other competition. The supplements that are available have very attractive advertisements on them. WADA approved and NADA approved is written on it. I think this also needs attention, as these are all steroids. No athlete takes it intentionally, it can also be given by deception, because there is politics in it. There is a

very important provision in this bill that if something is given to him fraudulently, then he gets an opportunity to appeal. These athletes come from small homes, so the sports budget should be increased. There is a need to create awareness through this bill and this awareness should be done at the school level.

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