

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Thursday, July 21, 2022/ Ashadha 30, 1944 (Saka)

OBSERVATION BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: The placards and such articles are not allowed in the House and the names of those Members violating the directions of the Chair, shall be reflected in the Parliamentary Bulletin.

GOVERNMENT BILL - *Contd.*

**The Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems
(Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022- *Contd.***

SHRI P. WILSON: There is price rise of essential commodities. How the Government is going to control and handle it? Price rise affects the poor and the common man. Today, the weapon of mass destruction in this country is the price rise.

DR. PRASHANTA NANDA: This Bill concerns the security of this country. This amendment is to prevent persons from financing such activities. The Bill seeks to ban funding of weapons of mass destruction and also empowers the Centre to freeze and seize or attach financial assets and economic resources of the people engaged in such activities. The Bill aims at giving the Government powers to freeze, seize

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or attach funds or other financial assets or economic resources of the guilty person. The Bill empowers the Government to prohibit making available funds, financial assets or economic resources for any prohibited activity in relation to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. The Bill will strengthen the country's global position, and specific changes in the principal Act were necessary for the security of the country. Many other countries in the world have such legislations. Therefore, I support this Bill.

SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA: There have not been any amendments to the Act in the last 16 years of its inception and I appreciate the introduction of such an important Bill. India has remained on the forefront in matters of disarmament and reiterated the belief that nuclear weapons should be abolished in a step-by-step non-discriminatory process, which is echoed in the Bill. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 prevents individuals and organisations from acquiring and spreading nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery. India has fought a battle against terrorism for many decades. Next point is on biological weapons, the new threat. We have repeatedly emphasized on following the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and pitched for strict compliance on banning production of the entire range of biological weapons of mass destruction. We have seen the widespread effects of Covid-19 pandemic with reports indicating that Coronavirus was manufactured in Wuhan Institute of Virology as a bio-weapon. The next point is on increasing criminal liability. In the 2005 Act, for aiding non-state actors or terrorists and violation of other provisions of the Act, there is no mention of an amount which would be liable as a fine. Therefore, I urge the Centre to levy more severe fines on the convicted offenders. This Bill is a step forward to counter the threat posed by these weapons. I support this Bill.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: I know this Bill is in accordance with the international commitment. I fully agree with this but important is, we have international commitment in different other areas. Please go ahead with this Bill but please also look at the commitments we have pending. 'Identification of proliferation activities', I think, this is one area where the Bill is quite positive. I am in favour of this Bill.

SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: The basic spirit of this Bill is - "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam". In this spirit, the Bill seeks to ban all weapons mass destruction. I support this Bill.

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: The Bill is aimed to insert certain provisions to the principal Act to prohibit financing of any activity in relation to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. The biological, chemical and nuclear weapons are severe threat to the human kind. I extend my support to this Bill.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: There is a verse in Tamil also, that is, "All towns are one, all men our kin." "We are all brothers; we must not discriminate and take weapons to kill other people, That is our slogan, that is our India. India is a philosophical country which is always advocating the human tribes and human democratic system, and under these circumstances, the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery System (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022 was introduced in Lok Sabha and passed also. The proposed Bill focuses more on the financial bit of activities supporting weapons of mass destructions and fits the missing block in fulfilling India's international obligations by adhering to the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force and United Nations Security Council's targeted financial sanctions against financing weapons of mass destructions. This Bill empower the Central Government to freeze, seize or attach funds or other financial assets or economic resources for preventing such financing; prohibit making available funds, financial assets or economic resources for any prohibited activity in relation to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. Our Party, the AIADMK, and we, the Members, are supporting whatever Amendments, the hon. Minister is bringing.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: I am very happy that the government has brought this important bill, which is small in appearance but the idea behind it is to strengthen the security of the country and the world. All types of weapons, chemical, biological and nuclear, are mentioned in this bill. The policy adopted by the Modi government is to stop finance, so that they do not get weapons and their overground support be stopped. This is the bill of the Modi government passed with

the consent of the House in 2005, in which this enabling amendment is being made, so that if anyone helps terrorism, his all properties will be confiscated, those who finance them, they will be punished and attachment of their properties will also take place. I support this Bill.

Discussion not concluded.

P. C. MODY,

Secretary-General.

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