

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Monday, December 12, 2022/ Agrahayana 21, 1944 (Saka)

FELICITATIONS BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: I take this opportunity to congratulate a distinguished Member of this august House, Shrimati P.T. Usha, on becoming the first woman and an Olympian to be the President of Indian Olympic Association on 10th December, 2022. The Payyoli Express and Golden Girl, Shrimati P.T. Usha, is a household name in India. An Olympian of international repute, she was also the first Indian woman to enter Olympic finals in Los Angeles in 1984, at the age of twenty. She set, so far, unsurpassed record of five gold medals in the Asian Championship in Jakarta. An Arjuna and Padma Shri awardee, Shrimati P.T. Usha is currently actively promoting sports and sports education. Shrimati P.T. Usha, both as President of the Indian Olympic Association and Member of this august House, contributes to sustenance of sports-friendly eco-system in the country. Her contributions are bound to be inspiring and motivating.

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

OBSERVATION BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: When I call a particular Member, I look around and that is because some parties have not designated seats to their Members. The parties that have allotted – and I compliment them – Seat/Division Numbers to their Members in the Rajya Sabha Chamber are: All India Trinamool Congress, Biju Janata Dal, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and Communist Party of India (Marxist). The other parties are yet to take affirmative/immediate step. Those parties that need to take steps affirmatively, at the earliest, are: Bharatiya Janata Party. It has allotted so far only to the hon. Ministers. The others are: Indian National Congress, Aam Aadmi Party, YSR Congress Party, Telangana Rashtra Samithi, Rashtriya Janata Dal, Janata Dal (United), All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Nationalist Congress Party, Samajwadi Party and Shiv Sena. Those of you who have done it in the last few minutes, I am grateful. I hope others will do it during the course of the day.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Rising Incidents of Blackmail and Extortion by Instant Loan Apps

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: I wish to bring to the notice of this august House the menace being caused by instant loan Apps. The modus operandi of these apps is such that a person receives a message that he or she has been sanctioned a loan amount. The mobile Apps, ask for access by clicking a link sent and in the process, gain access to our data. After the loan is sanctioned and the amount is credited to borrower's bank account and the borrower fails to repay the amount or even an EMI is not paid on time, the borrower is forced to repay an amount that is much higher than the loan amount. If the borrower resists paying this highly exorbitant amount, he is threatened with dire consequences by leaking of sensitive and personal information of the borrower. Majority of these loan applications are being operated from China, but the cases are registered against the Indian agents of these loan apps. These loan apps should be registered as an NBFC with the Reserve Bank of India as they are engaged in financial transaction. I request the hon. Minister to intervene in this matter and ban such apps, punish the

developers and promoters of these apps, formulate strict laws and regulations to ensure the privacy of phone data.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

2. Need for Government Intervention to Address Employment Situation in Country by Filling Vacancies in Public Sector

DR. V. SIVADASAN: It is shocking to note that about ten lakh posts are lying vacant in different Ministries and Departments of the Government. But, in the last five years, only two lakh posts have been filled up by the Government. The youngsters are facing unemployment problem. IT sector is also going through a crisis. The IT companies, besides laying off a large number of employees, are also reducing salaries of employees. The Government must look into this issue very seriously. I would also like to request the Government to fill up all the vacancies as soon as possible.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

3. Need to Declare Tea as National Beverage of India

SHRI PABITRA MARGHERITA: I want to tell this august House that Assam Tea will complete its 200 years next year in 2023. On this occasion, Assamese people and the Government of Assam will celebrate. I request that the Government of India should also promote it. I urge to declare tea as the national beverage, as it is liked all over the country. Nowadays juices of some other things, like that of Aparajita flower, are also being sold in the name of tea, which is unethical. This should be banned. In the end, I would request that a special package should be provided for the overall development of tea plantation workers.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

4. Need to Continue GST Compensation to States for Five More Years

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: There is an urgent need to extend GST compensation for states for five more years. The compensation, provided through a central legislation was in place till June 30, 2022. The Covid pandemic has caused a substantial slowdown in economy, with revenues falling and expenditure obligations rising. Kerala also witnessed

natural calamities in the two years preceding to pandemic. States like Kerala are also facing added difficulties due to conditions imposed on open market borrowings. The revenue deficit grants for Kerala will also cease with effect from the financial year 2024-25. In view of this, I urge the Government to continue the provision for compensation to bridge the shortfall in growth of GST revenues for another five years.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Need to Phase Out Rupee 2000 Denomination Currency to Curb Illegitimate Activities

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: These days the Rs 2,000 note is rarely seen and it is rumoured that it is out of circulation now. The government should clarify the position on this. People have hoarded Rs 2,000 notes on a large scale and these are being used in illegal trade only. The highest denomination of currency in all the developed economies of the world is 100 or 200. If Rs 1,000 note has been banned, then there is no justification for the circulation of Rs 2,000 note. Therefore, I urge the government to gradually phase out Rs 2,000 notes from the economy. The public should be given a chance of a year or two to exchange their valid Rs 2000 notes for other denominations.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

6. Need to Exempt Human Settlements in the State of Kerala from the Proposed Eco-Sensitive Buffer Zone around Protected Forests

DR. JOHN BRITTAS: According to a recent stipulation, there should be one kilometer limit from the forest for lives and livelihood of the people. This has created widespread panic amongst the people of Kerala. Kerala is a narrow strip of land having linear orientation, of which 30 per cent is forest. According to a study, if this new stipulation is implemented, almost one lakh buildings have to be demolished. The cultivation in four lakh acres of land needs to be abandoned. Therefore, I would urge upon the Central Government that a realistic view needs to be taken about the buffer zone, and the Central Government has to approach the Supreme Court to make sure that such stipulations are withdrawn as soon as possible.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

7. Violation of Provisions of Jamia Millia Islamia Act, 1988 by the University Administration

SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: I would like to draw the attention of the Government and the House to the violation of the provisions of the Jamia Millia Islamia Act, 1988 in the Jamia Millia Islamia, a Central University of minority character. There have been a blatant violation of the terms of service prescribed in the Act in the appointment of the Registrar in the University. Similarly, the Act provides for Students' Union, Teachers' Union, Union of academic staff and Union of Class IV employees. But for the last fifteen years, the students' union has been dissolved in Jamia, a month and a half ago the teachers' union of Jamia was also dissolved. There is a provision of forming an alumni association in the Act, but the Jamia administration has dissolved that too.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

8. Need to Fix Minimum Support Price for Tea Leaves and for Paying Fair Wages to Tea Plantation Workers of Assam and North-East Region

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM: I demand to fix Minimum Support Price for tea and pay fair wages to tea plantation workers. This industry provides assured employment to several lakhs of people, directly and indirectly, apart from earning foreign exchange. It also contributes to the protection of sustainable environment in hilly areas and forest land. Under the provision of Plantation Labour Act, the management is obliged to provide to the workers facilities like housing, medical, education, etc. The tea producers are unable to fetch desired prices for their finished goods due to cartelisation of the auctioneers. There is mismatch between the cost of production and the actual price realised, which leads to acute financial crisis, closure of many tea plantations. I would urge upon the Union Government to determine Minimum Support Price for tea on the basis of Swaminathan Committee recommendation. The Government should intervene and see to it that tea growers get reasonable price for their produce. The Government should also ensure that the tea plantation workers in Assam and the North-East are also paid fair wages.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Alleged Political Defections Taking Place in the Country by Using Unfair Means

SHRI SANJAY SINGH: The investigative agencies have been misused against the opposition leaders in the last few years, and 3,000 raids were conducted on the opposition leaders in the last eight years using Enforcement Directorate and only 23 people (Only 0.5 percent) were convicted by Enforcement Directorate. I would like to ask why ED & CBI are conducting raids or arresting several leaders of the opposition only whereas no action is being taken against the people like Nirav Modi, Vijay Mallya etc. as well as against the culprits of Vyapam scam who have looted thousand crores of rupees. If you want to run the country through dictatorship, then put everyone in jail.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

10. Need to Revoke the Decision of 400 Percent Fee Hike by Allahabad Central University

SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI: The fees of the students of the Allahabad University have been increased up to 400 percent. The graduation fee has been increased from Rs 975 to Rs 3,900. The post-graduation fee has been increased from Rs 1,375 to Rs 4,651 and the hostel fee has been increased from Rs 15,000 to Rs 45,000. For the last ninety days, the students are on fast unto death. The Maulana Azad National Fellowship has also been discontinued. I would like to urge that fee hike should be withdrawn, Maulana Azad fellowship should be restored and harassment of students should be stopped.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

11. Need to Operationalise Regional Airports as per Commitments Made under Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAAN) Scheme

DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAYEE: The Bhimrao Ambedkar airstrip in Meerut was handed over to the Airport Authority of India in the year 2014. After that it was decided to build a small airport in Meerut under the RCS scheme. From the year 2014, the airport authority has reserved the land of the farmers. Neither the land of the farmers is being taken nor the airport is being built in it. I would like to request the government to

immediately implement the RCS scheme within 6 months , in which it was decided to fly small aircraft.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

12. Frequent Road Accidents on NH-03 near Ganesh Ghat in Dhar District of Madhya Pradesh

DR. SUMER SINGH SOLANKI: India's road network is the largest road network in the world and it has been expanding rapidly in the last eight years. Accidents are common, but occurring at certain locations is a matter of serious concern. Today, almost everyone in the country is aware of road accidents occurring between Khalghat-Manpur on National Highway No. 3 in Dhar district under Nimar region. Hundreds of accidents have happened within a radius of two kilometers on the Ganesh Ghat of this route, which remains a matter of serious concern. It should be resolved immediately.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

13. Need to Adopt Blockchain and Web3 Technologies for Data Storage by Government Agencies to Prevent Cyber Attacks

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI: The recent AIIMS cyber attack has highlighted the issue of cyber attacks in our country. Two things have been revealed in it. One was the issue of data privacy and the other was how a cyber attack can bring down all the systems. Cyber attacks have increased three times in the last three years. Our cyber security funds are under-utilised. Air India data breach happened in the last three years, police exam database has also been breached. Covid 19 test results have also leaked, Aadhaar data has leaked. We have to strengthen ourselves. Attacks in our health space have increased by about 95 percent. We are leading in digital space, we should also lead in blockchain technology. There should be decentralization of database, so that we can protect our country's data from such cyber attack.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

14. Misuse of Provisions of the Waqf Act, 1995 by Waqf Boards

SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: The provisions of The Waqf Act, 1995 are against the basic structure of the Constitution of the country, as they not only hamper the independence and importance of the judiciary but also disintegrate the secular character of the country. All the members of all the 32 Waqf Boards across the country are from the Muslim community. These boards have been given such powers by The Waqf Act, 1995 that if they claim any property of any person, then it will be considered as the property of Waqf and their claim cannot be challenged in any court. This act creates division and hatred in the country and is spoiling the unity, integrity and social harmony of the country. Therefore, I demand immediate repeal of this unconstitutional and illogical Waqf Act, 1995 in the interest of the country.

(Shri Deepak Prakash, Smt. Geeta Chandrababha, Dr. Santanu Sen, Dr. Sonal Mansingh and Dr. Amar Patnaik associated.)

15. Need to Operationalise Solapur Airport

SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK: If any city has to be fully developed, then it is necessary to have good connectivity, be it road connectivity, rail connectivity or the most importantly air connectivity. Keeping this in mind, our Prime Minister had implemented a very important scheme RC Scheme, Regional Connectivity Scheme, 'Udaan Yojana' to connect small towns with big cities. Solapur district is a very important and large district in Maharashtra. Spinning and weaving are done here on a large scale. Solapur has the largest number of sugar factories in the country. Pomegranate and grapes are exported from here on a large scale.

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

GOVERNMENT BILL

The Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 - Contd.

SHRI P. WILSON: I appreciate the good intention of the hon. Minister for making earnest efforts to control the carbon emission and to

protect the environment, and I welcome the same. But, I am sorry to state that the Bill has a lot of legal infirmities which go to the root of the matter and it requires re-consideration and re-introduction. The Bill gives the Union Government the authority to implement a carbon credit trading system in the country. An organisation that emits more carbon dioxide than what is allowed may purchase carbon credits. The Bill is ultra vires of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. While the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 deals with saving energy, the present Bill deals with saving environment and conserving climate change due to usage of fossil and non-fossil fuels while generating electricity. The Bill relates to monitoring and controlling of carbon emission and climate change which is an aspect of the environmental laws. By making Ministry of Power as the nodal agency, it is acting without jurisdiction and usurping the power of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The Ministry has not specified who will regulate and govern the carbon credit market. The Bill does not clarify how carbon credit certificates will be traded or who will be regulating such trading. The Bill implicitly proposes an escape route mechanism. The introduction of carbon market in India is a welcome step. But the scheme might end up just providing an escape route mechanism to carbon-intensive industrial sources. I would like the hon. Minister to consider the following suggestions: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change should be brought in for proper implementation of the proposed scheme since they are the expert body in the concerned area of proposed legislation. A regulatory body should be established to regulate the carbon credit trading certificates in the open market.

SHRI SANDEEP KUMAR PATHAK: I want to congratulate the government for this Bill. This is a very futuristic Bill and it should have been done long ago. Nevertheless, this Bill will further determine the future of how renewable resources will be utilized and how the country will progress in it. There are many things in this bill, which we will have to look at carefully. First of all if I talk about carbon credit trading, it is a very good start but I don't understand why it is coming from Ministry of Power. This bill should come from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy or the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change . There is lack of details on many aspects in this Bill, which must be taken care of. I think there

should be a separate session on this. Let us finish all the small, technical and technological amendments in a separate session.

SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN: The Bill also provides a legal framework for carbon markets, by introducing the concept of carbon trading and carbon credit certificates. Apart from this, this amendment increases the scope of energy conservation building code, also amends the penal provisions and increases the number of members of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency in the Governing Council. Its objective is to empower the State Electricity Regulatory Commission to frame rules for the smooth discharge of its functions. Although there are many flaws in it. Carbon trading involves high transaction costs, as each firm pollutes at different levels and the extent of pollution is difficult to calculate. That is why there is a strong need for impact criteria based on fair and accurate calculations of carbon emissions. In addition, there is a need to set up a mechanism to regulate carbon trading and ensure transparency.

SHRI S NIRANJAN REDDY: I rise on behalf of my party to support the Bill, essentially, because it ticks three major boxes. One is, it speaks of the ecological sustainability or environmental sustainability. That is a big plus on its side. Second, it looks at economic advantage for the country by saving energy. The third big reason is that it tries to make India more energy self-sufficient which will help India in the progress of becoming an economic power. There are five points of concern which may again have to be sorted out by the Government, If someone having building lower than 100 kilowatts capacity wants to be a part of this energy saving programme, the provisions should be there. Second point is that there is no coordinated approach between states and centre. The third point of concern which I have is the aspect of a lack of regulator. The fourth point of concern is that the Act now makes a reference to fossil fuels separate from non-fossil fuels, separate from renewable energy, which means non-fossil energy would be energy which is separate from fossil derived energy or renewable energy because non-fossil energy is not defined under the Act. The Government should have an independent source. The last point is the overlapping eligibility. It is a progressive legislation. I support it.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: If this Bill would have come from the Standing Committee that would have been great. The practice is

generally dying out of sending a bill for legislative scrutiny. This bill is complex. It has been discussed in the western countries for many days, but it is new for us. I am yet to find out about the carbon credit certificate from this bill, who will do it? How will the rating happen? There is a domain conflict in this, because in different countries of the world it has come from the Ministry of Environment, while here it is coming from the Ministry of Power. There is a lot of emphasis on non-fossil energy, especially renewable energy and I understand this because it has been discussed in this country since I was a student, many such things have also been pointed out, including corruption. Yes, it is a matter of favouring certain multinational clientele. The proposed carbon trading market on the Bureau of Energy Efficiency is almost silent on the initial allocation of credits. Auction system is followed in European Union, so which system are we thinking to follow here? Nothing has been said on Calculating emissions. What is the time-frame for the market? How will this affect the consumers? Nevertheless, this bill is very necessary.

DR. V. SIVADASAN: Basically, this Bill is promoting the centralisation tendency. It should be corrected. This is against the federal structure of our nation. This Bill proposes Bureau of Energy Efficiency. There are only five representatives of the States. A representative of each of the State should be there. In the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, there is no representation of farmers and workers? Carbon trading and energy conservation methods from State to State are different. So, State-specific issues are there. the Union Government should give the right to the States for managing energy conservation procedure and method. It should provide the right to the State for making specification of the building. The State level designated agencies are working very well. Government should allow them to continue. Independently, an autonomous decision is very important for the development of energy sector.

SHRI VAIKO: Energy Conservation Act, 2001 provides a framework for regulating energy consumption and promoting energy efficiency and energy conservation. Carbon intensity is defined as the volume of carbon emissions per unit of GDP. India aims to have 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity and meet fifty per cent of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030. The Bill empowers the Central Government

to specify a carbon credit trading scheme. The Central Government or any authorized agency may issue Carbon Credit Certificates to entities. The Bill amends this to provide for an 'Energy Conservation and Sustainable Building Code.' This new Code will provide for use of renewable energy and other requirements for green buildings. The Bill provides for provisions, including residential buildings. In my view, it should be applicable to only commercial buildings. The amount of penalty is also very high. It should be reduced. Since most of the functions fall under the State jurisdiction, the Government should provide membership for each State in the Governing Council. The Governing Body of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency has under-utilized funds by around 50 per cent in the last two years! This has to be taken very seriously. Government has reduced the Budget for the Solar Energy Corporation. The Government has to increase the generation of solar power. But subsidy on solar panels is being reduced and GST on it has been increased. The domestic manufacturing companies have to import certain components from abroad. Increase in import duty may harm them. The Government should encourage more such renewable energy systems which do not pollute the environment. The Ministry of Power should involve the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in all policy matters.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN: We are part of the a rapidly evolving world. The amendments are welcome and most needed one, taking into account the growing and evolving human race needing energy to survive. Each country is using the resources endowed by the Nature and trying not to allow the Earth to be damaged. Today, it is the question of the survival of the planet for all of us. We import most of the power in the form of fossil fuels and other natural gases. Even the components of the solar industry, like photovoltaic cells, are majorly imported from other countries. So, cost-effective high power density batteries must be developed and we must increase our R&D Budget to a higher level like other major economies. The Government should ensure that building code is implemented by the local governments. It has to be an inter-Ministerial, inter-departmental at every-level approach right down to the farmers. Stubble burning and the use of mountains of garbage as biomass fuel should be encouraged through corporate social responsibility for industries and also incentivise individual farmers with a system of carbon credit. This will create awareness.

SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL: Many things have not been done in the object and reason and provisions of this bill. The government should prepare a cooling demand action plan as the demand for electricity is going to increase significantly in the future. Had this Bill been sent to the Standing Committee, all these things would have been studied. GST on renewable energy equipment has been increased. It should be reduced. I believe that it is also the responsibility of the Central Government to safeguard the rights of the states to the maximum in the federal structure. I emphasize on the need to create infrastructure for the conservation of energy. You should do more infrastructure, more research and development so that clean energy can be saved. You talk about carbon credit trading, but carbon trading will also have to be regulated. There is no provision for carbon trading in this bill.

SHRI RAM CHANDER JANGRA: The purpose of this Bill is that whatever energy we use, it should be used carefully and judiciously instead of mindlessly and destructively. More than half of the world is in the grip of natural disasters. All this happens because of mindless use of energy. Compared to USA and Russia, India's emission rate is 1.9 tons. In conservation of energy, India ranks fourth in its use. In wind energy, we are also at the fourth place in the world. Along with this, in solar energy, we are at the fourth place in the world. Other ministries should also be involved in this. In the earlier arrangements made by the Government, provisions have been made to save energy in a very good way. By 2021, 1.22 crore LED street lights have been installed. In this, 8.2 billion units of electricity have been saved. This is a great achievement for us. There has been indiscriminate emission of carbon into the atmosphere. Due to the heat that has entered the atmosphere through factories and vehicles, the world is facing a huge challenge of global warming today. This is a big climate change, which is a big challenge before the world, if it is not stopped in time, then in the time to come it is going to be very dangerous for the whole of humanity. Our target of preventing 45 percent emissions by 2030, under the able leadership of the Honourable Prime Minister, we have achieved 40 percent of that in 2022 itself. This is a huge step towards energy conservation and a commendable step by the Government of India to save the indiscriminate emission of heat and carbon in the atmosphere.

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: Regarding the establishment of carbon market, The Bill is silent who is going to regulate the Carbon Credit Market. It seems that they are going to charge for certification. In other countries, there are no charges for certification, and I recommend that it should be provided free to encourage the participant industries. The Bill, inter alia, seeks to amend the penalty provisions. The penalties have not been categorised as small, medium or heavy. This should not happen and the penalty should not be imposed on the consumers of low-income groups or small business entities. Then, regarding enhancing the energy conservation and sustainable building codes, there is a concern that the maintenance fees of residential buildings will increase with this new energy-efficient infrastructure. I would like to say that the Government should play a proactive role in providing infrastructure for renewable energy sources and carbon trading mechanism and it should not put entire burden on the private sector, and ultimately on the consumers. The Government should financially assist already existing residential buildings to comply with the norms to reduce the carbon footprints. So, I urge upon the hon. Minister to reconsider and make it a consumer-friendly Bill.

SHRI MAHARAJA SANAJAOBA LEISHEMBA: The target of Zero Emission by 2070 clearly shows India's sincere determination to work for low-carbon emissions in combating the climate change and also its endeavour to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. The per capita energy consumption of India is one-third of the world's average whereas carbon emission was 1.9 tonnes of CO₂ in 2019 compared with 15.5 tonnes for the US and 12.5 tonnes for Russia that year, despite India being the home of one-sixth of global populace. Globally, India stands fourth in renewable energy power capacity as well as wind power and solar power capacity. India is having one of the highest growth rates for renewable energy in the world. Amidst growing energy needs and changing global climate scenario, the Government of India is trying to enhance the capacity of renewable energy by proposing amendments to Energy Conservation Act, 2001. The Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 is very much necessary to meet the additional energy requirements for sustainable development as well as a green economy. To attain India's motto 'Leave No One Behind', the Government of India is trying to work in collaboration with domestic and global stakeholders in the energy sector for sustainable non-fossil energy

generation. As far as justification of amendments is concerned, it includes carbon trading and minimum share of non-fossil consumption that will help the country achieve sustainable development and to keep country's commitment related to climate change. The proposed amendment shall promote use of non-fossil energy sources including green-hydrogen/green-ammonia while making penalties for offenders more effective. First major amendment is to have a legal framework to mandate use of non-fossil sources including green hydrogen for energy and feedstock. To reduce carbon emission of Indian economy, we have to use non-fossil energy sources and feedstock like green hydrogen/green ammonia, biomass and ethanol, etc. Second major amendment is to have a framework for carbon markets. Now-a-days, carbon markets are playing a very important role in the reduction of carbon emission. Carbon trading can be applied to the private sectors also. Third major amendment is for bringing large residential buildings in the fold of energy conservation regime. The proposal includes expanding the scope of building to include large residential buildings with connected load of more than 100 kilowatt or 120 kVA. My next point is about increasing the scope of Energy Conservation Building Code. The idea of Lifestyle for Environment Movement was introduced by our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference at Glasgow, 2021. The idea promotes an environment conscious lifestyle that focuses on mindful and deliberate utilization instead of mindless and destructive consumption. To make enforcement more effective, penalty provisions are being differentiated based on the area of implementation sectors, appliances, industries and vehicles. At the same time, penalty provisions affecting a large number of citizens are proposed to be rationalized under the objective of enhancing ease of doing business and ease of living. Provisions for inclusion of various Ministries in Governing Council of Bureau of Energy Efficiency for better functioning of BEE and powers to State Electricity Regulatory Commissions to have smooth enforcement process are included.

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI: It is the need of the hour that we look towards energy conservation as well as energy efficiency. The Act is allowing the Central Government to specify carbon credit trading scheme, energy consumption standards, standards for equipment and appliances and also decide the penalties applicable. Now, penalties even on

residential buildings will be decided by the Central Government and will have to be implemented by the State Governments and more importantly, the local Governments. Not having them as part of this entire discussion mechanism, I think, is faulty to begin with. I had proposed through my Private Member's Bill a Climate Change Council or Board which would be led by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and which should have all the important State Ministers deliberating on something like this. So, it is important to have the voice of State Governments also because they would be final adjudicators. Whether it is Coal, Urban Housing, Transport or Civil Aviation - all of them would have to be active partners in making this entire energy conservation an important factor to achieve our goals as committed by the hon. Prime Minister at the COP-26. However, there is no clarity on that particular thing in the Bill. The government should aim at facilitating communication of State Boards with the Centre and ensure that the Bill aims at efficiency and conservation. I think the carbon trading mechanism that the government is bringing, needs to be thought through. I would request that allocation of credit scheme should be free of cost initially and done in a time-bound manner. I would say that we will only make it more efficient by having private companies becoming a partner in creating this conservation ecosystem. Moreover, we need to have even a price control mechanism. Biomass has also been mentioned as clean fuel in the amendments which is appreciable. We have unregulated the fuel price. But at this point in time when we are looking at a transition to newer energy resources, then we need to see how we can control the price mechanism to ensure that people are encouraged to move towards renewable energy resources.

DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: I stand in support of this amendment bill. Today, the entire world is worried about the manner in which global warming is increasingly becoming a menace. A meeting of all the countries took place in Glasgow regarding this. In that meeting, the core issue of discussion and deliberation was how we can deal with the challenge of global warming. Some decisions were also taken in this regard which include issues like meeting the challenge of climate change, promoting renewable energy, developing domestic carbon markets, rapidly decarbonizing the Indian economy, carbon trading to ensure sustainable development in consonance with the Paris Agreement and various other actions related to climate change, adoption of new concepts such as

mandatory use of non-fossil sources and promotion of measures to reduce carbon emissions. For this purpose, the Government of India is making continuous efforts to promote renewable energy. It is our endeavor to boost the production of energy from non-fossil sources and for this, provisions have been made in this amendment. Simultaneously, we aim to constitute a governing council through the Bureau of Energy Efficiency so that we can strictly follow these rules. At the same time, we will continue to work towards reducing carbon emissions as much as possible.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: I think this Bill needs to be improved on several terms and, for that, I request the Government to refer this Bill to the Standing Committee. Climate issues have come to the fore. That is why in COP26 and in all such international debates and meetings, climatic issues take the forefront. In the speech of the Prime Minister in G20, he spoke about Panchamrit which focuses primarily on climate issues. In that context, I feel that it is not the Ministry of Power that should pilot this Bill, rather it should have been presented by the Ministry of Environment and Forest. On this issue of carbon emission, global warming and climate change, no amount of trade will help us. In that way, this Bill has to be altered fundamentally to ensure that remedial steps are taken to reduce carbon footprint. I want this Bill to positively guide the nation towards a carbon-free surroundings.

SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY: Today we are living in an age of global warming. The greenhouse effect and the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere in general are gradually increasing due to the increase in the levels of carbon dioxide and other pollutants around the world. Along with this, due to the increase in population, the demand for energy is increasing everywhere. This bill has been brought by focusing on the important topics of how this energy should be, how it should be efficient, how it should be traded, how it should reach the common people and especially the maximum use of clean energy. Under One Nation, One Grid, during the last eight years, the government has connected the entire country with a single electricity grid running on one frequency. The Indian grid has now become the largest integrated grid in the world. Our government has taken LPG to every village. The government has made every possible effort to insulate the country against the effects of global warming and the country is marching ahead under an able leadership.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: I rise here today to support the Bill. The biggest problem that the world is facing today is the climate change and global warming. The Government has brought the Amendment to the Bill, which was introduced earlier, against the old Act of 2001. In the Glasgow Conference, we had committed that India would produce 500 GW of energy from non-fossil sources by 2030. Out of this 500 MW, we are going to produce 50 per cent from the renewable energy sources. As a good example, Germany has adopted the path of renewable energy. They do not need nuclear or thermal plants now. In case of India, the Cochin Airport has become the first renewable energy-based airports in the world. I congratulate the Airports Authority of India. The Government took many initiatives, including some leading Non-Government Organisations, to draw the attention of the people towards global warming and climate change. I welcome the move of the Government of India to amend the Bill and to provide a legal framework for the non-fossil sources of energy to generate green energies. Moreover, I also welcome the inclusion of a number of other Ministries also as new members in the Governing Council of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency. With reference to Ethanol, the Government must give an enhanced budgetary support. The Bill also highlights the importance thereof under its objectives. I support this Amendment Bill and congratulate the Government.

SHRI RAMJI: This Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 talks about encouraging the use of clean energy by issuing carbon savings certificates. Through this, it is proposed to amend the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. Under its main objective, an emphasis has been laid on finding other alternatives to fossil fuels in order to reduce carbon emissions. For this, Green Hydrogen has to be promoted. If it really works, we will achieve 100% of our objectives. Several hon'ble Members have raised questions on the Government's approach. According to an information, still about 80 percent of the solar energy panels installed in Government bungalows located on Lutyens Road are not working properly. We also need to promote wind energy, solar energy and hydro-power as an alternative to fossil fuels. There is also a need to pay attention to the quality of electrical appliances. The solar energy can be a good option in every village of India. The use of solar power is increasing in remote areas, in forests and in cities. However, further research needs to be done to encourage it further. For this GST

waiver would also be a good step. Many hon'ble Members pointed out that we are going to mix a lot of Ethanol with petrol. You have set a target of making five to ten percent Ethanol from rice. Looking at the hunger situation in the country, you should stop the project of making Ethanol from rice and make it from sugarcane. I urge the Government that on the basis of new scientific approaches, the use of fossil fuels should be reduced.

DR. RADHA MOHAN DAS AGRAWAL: With regard to this Bill, I would like to say that a person who acts with a view to earn immediate and short term gains, leaving aside long term interest and necessity, has to bear the loss. Today, India is the only country which is moving forward with full honesty carrying the burden of the world on its shoulders. We are trying to set an example before the world. The whole world is aware of the adverse conditions of the environment. By the end of this century, one-third of our forest land would have become barren. The sea level would have risen to a dangerous level. I have seen on my tour that the protection of Lakshadweep is done by its coral reefs. If in the future, the temperature of the sea rises even by one and a half degrees, then the maximum part of all the coral reefs will end and the civilization there will be in danger. Today people are busy in preparing environment related documents but they are not fulfilling their responsibilities. As per the data published by the recently held COP- 27, India has performed best in the list of major countries and the entire world has accepted this index. I would like to congratulate the Honorable Minister for this achievement. When Modi Ji came to power in the year 2014, he made LED lights cheaper and started selling them under '*Ujala*' scheme. Like '*Jan-Dhan Yojana*', this experiment was also a success. The available data shows that due to the '*Ujala*' scheme, a total of 40 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emission has been reduced and electricity has been saved in India every year. The Ministry of Railways also accepted this challenge and by the year 2030, all the work of the Ministry of Railways will be done at the level of net zero carbon emissions. India is currently generating 173 GW of renewable energy out of targeted 400 GW. We have already met our non-fossil fuel target under 500 GW. By the year 2030, we will also achieve the remaining target. In this direction, this Bill will also prove to be very helpful. Being the chair of G-20, India is now on its way to set a new record and encourage other countries. I congratulate and thank the Honorable Minister for bringing this historic Bill.

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: This Bill aims at giving shape to those commitments given by the Government at COP- 26 held in 2021 in Glasgow. Those five commitments or *Panchamrits* are: Reaching non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW by 2030 ; meeting 50 per cent of energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030 ; reducing the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now onwards till 2030; reducing the carbon intensity of economy by less than 45 per cent by 2030; and achieving the target of Net Zero emission by 2070. This Bill seeks to promote the use of non-fossil sources, including biomass and ethanol for energy along with the use of green hydrogen and green ammonia. It also proposes to enhance the scope of Energy Conservation Building Code and bring large residential buildings within the ambit of energy conservation regime. This Bill brings clarity regarding the Building where the Energy Building Conservation Code is applicable. However, certain definitions on 'building', 'carbon trading' and 'carbon market' need a detailed clarifications. Some of the key terms remain undefined. It remains to be seen as to how the target would be achieved. Surely, we are generating a great deal of energy through various sources. However, the remaining 241.18 Gigawatts has to be achieved within a period of 8 years. Now, it all depends upon the Government's effort and dedication. For this, a regulatory body should also be established which could regulate the carbon credit certification in the open market.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: On behalf of AIADMK Party, I am supporting the Bill. It aims to provide regulatory framework for (i) carbon trading in India, (ii) encouragement of penetration of renewable energy, and (iii) effective implementation and enforcement of the Energy Conservation Act. Already, we are producing renewable energy in India. Most importantly, Tamil Nadu stands first in the country in terms of the production of solar energy as well as wind energy because of the efforts made by our former Chief Minister, Amma Jayalalithaaji and Edappadi Palaniswamiji. During this period of 10 years, a lot of efforts were made by the state Government to implement the scheme. Generally, the energy conservation means energy efficient devices and products. Today, the residential buildings alone are consuming nearly 40 per cent of the total energy which we are producing. The 'electricity' being in the Concurrent List, both the State Government and the Central Government are playing the games. As far as

our previous AIADMK Government was concerned, during our time the price of electricity was very less. But since the new Government has taken over in Tamil Nadu, the prices have been doubled, despite making promises before elections. Hence, the Central Government should direct the Tamil Nadu Government to decrease the electricity charge. More and more multi-storeyed buildings are coming up in the cities and so is pollution. Nearly 40 per cent of the electricity is used up by 25 per cent of such buildings. I request the Union Ministry to direct the State Governments not to increase the cost of electricity as the common man is suffering. We are generating atomic energy at the Kundankulum Plant. Some States refuse to have such nuclear plants. I would request the hon. Minister not to give a share out of the nuclear power generated by States that agree to have these plants to other States that refuse to have such plants.

SHRI GHANSHYAN TIWARI: Speaking at the 'Save Earth' conference, former Prime Minister of India Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao had explained the meaning of Rigveda's Prithvi Sukta. Rigveda mentions about 'universal peace' to save the environment and the earth. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has announced 'Panchamrit', meaning - by 2030, to enhance India's non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW, to meet 50 per cent of its energy needs from renewable energy, to reduce its total projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes, to reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by 45 per cent and by the year 2070, achieve the goal of net zero emissions. This bill is panchamrit for the protection of earth and environment. Just as Bhagirath made efforts to bring Ganga to earth, similar efforts are being made by our government in different fields for energy conservation. Railways is rapidly being transformed and renewable energy is being used in it. Carbon emission is also being reduced. Today, the number of battery operated auto rickshaws in the entire country has increased to about one crore. The Government of India has started the work of installing solar panels for solar energy. The duty has been increased on this, due to which the import from China has reduced and now it is being manufactured in India. We are bringing more and more hydro power. If we can come up with non-conventional energy sources, that would be a great thing. This bill is a proof of India's commitment to save earth and environment and I support it.

SHRIMATI MAHUA MAJI: It is appropriate to impose fine for polluting the environment. Jadugoda in Jharkhand has been the only source of Uranium emissions or Uranium mining so far. When the mining of Uranium was started for the first time in Jaduguda, safety standards were ignored. The kind of disability that was seen for many generations after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan was also visible among the tribals of Jaduguda and its effects are still there. Stone extracted from mines like Jadugoda lie outside for years before being taken to a treatment plant. During the rain, Uranium particles dissolve in the water and go to the local Garra river. This river merges in the Subarnarekha River which flows through Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand to the Bay of Bengal. Before reaching there, it infects millions of people and also pollutes the environment. In Jaduguda area, not only human beings, but the plants, fishes, animals and birds have all been affected by the radiation. Therefore, I would like to say that wherever such dangerous minerals are extracted, the Central Government should also pay attention to them. If the officials there ignore the safety standards, then they should also be fined.

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P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.

rssynop@sansad.nic.in

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