

**RAJYA SABHA**

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**\*SUPPLEMENT**

**TO**

**SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

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**(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)**

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**Wednesday, December 7, 2022/ Agrahayana 16, 1944 (Saka)**

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**GOVERNMENT BILL**

**THE WILD LIFE (PROTECTION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2022**

**SHRI VIVEK K. TANKHA:** This wildlife protection concept was, for the first time, enacted by way of a law in 1912 and that continued for many years. This power to enact on wildlife was basically reserved for the States. But, with the 42nd Constitution Amendment in 1977, this power was transferred to the Concurrent List from the State List. In 1972, before the amendment of this Act, the Wildlife Protection Act was enacted. At that time, when the power was with the State, eleven States passed resolution that they wanted a Central enactment, and, being an all-India subject, it had to be addressed nationally. Now, this is one stage at which broad based amendments have come. These amendments deal with Rio Treaty also. These amendments deal with many Conventions but the basic facet of entire amendment is to fill up the loopholes and gaps in the various sections across various chapters. Section 43 is the section that is most controversial at the moment. This is the section in which you permit the transfer and transportation of elephants. The problem arose

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

because the proviso says, "Elephant transfer and transportation can be done for religious or for any other purpose. In the last thirty or forty years, the elephant became not an endangered but a protected species. If we allow elephant to be used for 'any other purpose', then many issues will arise. In this, you have to make a declaration to the competent authority. I have a dear, a tiger cub or any other endangered species in my home. There is also another problem in this that he should give a declaration, but the problem is that you have not given the right to complain to the third party to complain. There is a similar issue of every national park and sanctuary. This is what you call one kilometer eco-sensitive zone rule. What happened now that the Supreme Court has just given an order on 30th November in the context of Tungarehwar Wildlife Sanctuary that this one kilometer eco-sensitive rule will not apply as it is. This means it is flexible. Now, as Parliament, You have an opportunity to amend, but this issue has not been dealt with. Now the problem is that this will now go by judicial verdict case by case. Where such issues will come to the National Parks, they will go to the Supreme Court. In this way, whatever you do in the eco-sensitive zone will have to be done in an eco-sensitive way only. You should have thought about that too. You had the opportunity to address, in my opinion that has left, because this area is now being dealt with by the Supreme Court rather than the Parliament or the Executive. Eco-sensitive area is a part of our heritage. It is a part of our national heritage. Second thing is that polluter pays the fine so that he does not repeat the mistake. Thirdly, we are discharging our responsibilities towards the coming generations. A reference was made to tiger farming concept of South-East Asia. The tigers have been domesticated. For the sake of revenue generation, the entire concept of wild life protection and ecological balance has been aggressively transformed. My native city of Jabalpur has got various eco sensitive parks around it. For example, there are Kanha National Park, Bandhavgarh and Pench Wild life reserves. These all sites could be a big source of revenue generation even for coming generations. So, I humbly request to take all livelihood related aspects also into consideration before finalising the Bill.

**DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:** The wildlife wealth is the world's natural wealth. The protection and conservation thereof is the need of the hour. It is the duty of the Government as well as people to protect it. The proposed Amendment seeks to increase the number of species protected under the law and implement the international conventions. Due to a rise in human population, the natural resources are being consumed faster than ever before. This endangers the habitats and existence of various types of wildlife around the world. The global studies highlight the fact that humans are responsible for an astonishing 60 per cent decline in the size of population of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians in just over 40 years. Therefore, a law aimed to protect and conserve wildlife population is absolutely necessary. At the same time, protection of forest rights of Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers living in nearby protected wildlife zones is also important. A near-total ban on grazing has made the life of locals difficult and is stripping them of their rights. The cattle-grazing has been recognized under the Tamil Nadu Forest Act, 1882. But, the recent Court order has reduced the legitimate grazing area. The previous Acts and provisions thereof have been ignored. According to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, Tamil Nadu had to prepare a tiger conservation plan while protecting the interests of local forest dwellers as well. I urge the Union Government to have consultation with State Governments in such matters. Tamil Nadu plays an important role in protecting the wildlife. It is full of rich and sensitive bio-diversity. During last five to six decades, Tamil Nadu has been one of the best performing states in the country, as far as wildlife protection is concerned. I urge the Union Government to provide Rs. 2,000 crore package to the Government of Tamil Nadu so that its wildlife protection and conservation efforts could continue. Thank you.

**SHRI BRIJLAL:** I wish to speak on the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022, which proposes to amend the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 so as to incorporate the necessary changes to appropriately implement The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in India. Certain other amendments have also been proposed so as to make the

Act more comprehensive. India is a signatory to the CITES, which requires the parties to take appropriate measures to enforce its provisions and prohibit trade in violation thereof. Non-compliance by a country to adopt appropriate legislation to implement CITES may result in a recommendation from CITES to suspend trade in CITES-listed species with such country. The CITES Secretariat has noted certain gaps in India's implementation of the CITES. A recommendation to suspend trade with India for CITES-listed species would affect India's exports and imports of such species including agarwood, sheesham, red sander wood, medicinal plants and aromatic plants, etc. If we don't bring a law, then our products like Rosewood and Agarwood, which are important sources of foreign exchange, might get suspended and our export would be affected. This legislation is also necessary to enable us to bridge the gaps in CITES. Similarly, we earn a lot of money from 'Red Sandal' as well. It is used for musical instruments, medicinal purposes etc. We also export it and if this legislation is not passed then we could also face a problem in its export. The Bill seeks to control illegal trade in wild life, its parts and products. It is proposed to enhance the monetary penalty for contravention of the provisions of the Act to ensure that they act as a deterrent in the present times. Today, the whole of South-East Asia is grappling with the problems arising from invasive plants like 'Water Hyacinth', which was brought here from abroad. Today, the water bodies of North India, Bengal, Bihar etc. are full of water hyacinth. The fish farming and water chestnut production done by our farmers in these water bodies has ended. 'Lantana Camara' is another invasive plant brought from outside to India which dries up in summer, increasing the risk of fire. 'Parthenium' or carrot grass is also one such plant. This bill provides that no such invasive plant causing problems for us should be brought from outside, and also provides for severe penalties for its violation. This invasive plant is the biggest problem for farmers. Now I will talk about invasive fauna like Thai Mangur and Tilapia fish which are causing the extinction of our aquatic animals and traditional fish. Lastly, I would like to talk about vermin species such as nilgai and wild boar. There is a provision to declare them vermin species, but right now it is not being followed

due to many formalities in obtaining its permission. So I would like to request Honorable Minister that clear instructions should be given to the State Governments regarding vermin species mentioned in this Act.

**SHRIMATI SULATA DEO making her maiden speech,**  
**said:** We believe in 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. This is a term, which, in my opinion, include not only humans, but animals, plants, rivers and streams also. It is not that the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 2022 was not discussed or a rule regarding this subject was not made earlier. There are rules and there are laws too. No matter how strict the rules are made, but the difficulty arises when we do not follow the rules. Water Hyacinth seen in Dal Lake is also polluting our Chilka Lake. Arrangements should be made to eliminate this so that fishes and reptiles can live comfortably there. How much work is being done by our government, how much tree plantation is being done, due to which the forest area is also increasing. We will now come to human-elephant conflict in which sometimes the elephant dies and sometimes the human dies. For this, the Government of Odisha has created a Mobile App, through which ex-gratia is given to the victim very quickly. Though the subject of forest falls in the Concurrent List, there should be involvement of the state as well as the central government. There should be an Elephant Conservation Authority like the National Tiger Conservation Authority. Most of the elephants die after being run over by the train on the railway line. An underpass should be made on the route of their movement. Elephant and human conflict is more prevalent in Odisha because many elephants come to Odisha from Dalma area in Jharkhand and destroy all the farming thereby destroying all the hard work of the farmers. I suggest that it should be seen why they leave their place and go to another place. This means that there is less for them to eat around. A Coordination Committee should be formed between the states through which they pass. We were just talking about carrot grass, we also see carrot grass in our state which destroys the crops. If you give compensation, that will at least save the farmer and the animals too will not die which will ultimately save our bio-diversity.

**SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA:** First, I come to the positives of this Bill. The Act prescribes imprisonment terms and fines for violating the provisions of the Act. The Bill increases these fine from up to Rs. 25,000 to up to Rs. 1,00,000 for a general violation and from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 25,000 for specially protected animals. The Bill aims to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, an international agreement that regulates the international trade of wild animals and plants in order to prevent any threat to extinction of the species. Now, I come to problems need to be addressed in this Bill. First is the issue of vermin. The Bill also does not define the word 'vermin'. The particular species will not be covered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act and can be hunted or culled without restriction once declared as vermin. Human-wildlife conflict is another issue that needs to be addressed. Human-wildlife conflicts are also increasing due to habitat destruction, encroachment and the developmental works, industrialization and agricultural expansion. The proposed amendment Bill introduces an exemption Clause to Section 43 in the case of transfer or transport of ownership of live elephants. This exception may lead to elephants being subjected to captivity and brutality. Therefore, the earlier ban should be upheld. The proposed Bill renders the State Board defunct and instead provides for the establishment of a Standing Committee of the State Board for Wildlife, it decreases the State's involvement and ability to take decisions in matters of wildlife. Protection of wildlife has to be seen along with protection of their wild habitat and, therefore, we need to see the Bill in accordance with the Forest Conservation Act and the Environment Protection Act.

**PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA:** This 'Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2022' has crossed many hurdles and reached this point today. For this, I thank the Honorable Minister very much. My concern, or should I say dilemma, has been there since 2019, ever since their Government was formed again. Just now I was talking to one of my colleagues, who is often friendly with our BJP colleagues. He said one thing, he said that whatever may be the content of the bill, but one thing is common in all the bills that one way or the other there is an attempt to hurt the federal structure. Even

in wildlife protection, when you talk in G-20 and with other countries, there can be an exchange of ideas over a number of such relevant issues. In order to bring cheetah in the country, we forgot what happened to Saharia tribals! Saharia tribals of Bagcha village were displaced. I am not anti-cheetah, I am repeating this again, I am also a big supporter of cheetah, but even cheetah would have been more happy if it did not have to destroy someone's house. Wildlife Protection Act is specifically targeting and prosecuting forest dwellers. Many people, who are working for human rights, have also said this one thing time and again. I would urge that we also develop a wildlife corridor system like America.

**DR. JOHN BRITTAS:** So much has been talked about the various provisions and the hon. Minister has concluded his initial remarks by saying that he was reciprocating to the international treaty to which we are part of. My concern is that there is a deliberate design in every action of this Government to usurp the powers of the States. Clause 11 of the new Amendment Bill tries to take away this right of the consultation with State Board of Wildlife by proposing to substitute the same with National Board, not only infringing the principles of cooperative federalism but also having far-reaching consequences as the National Board can effectively block any proposal from the State. You want only the Union Government. Even otherwise, you have a dangerous scheme of destabilizing Opposition-led State Governments. I strongly oppose this Bill because of this. I would request the hon. Minister to strike a balance and try to make sure that the rights of the States are protected, the livelihood of the people is protected and all the clauses which are detrimental to the principles of federalism should be withdrawn.

**SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE:** I would like to congratulate the Government for inserting provisions to control the invasive alien species. These invasive alien species have caused irreparable loss elsewhere in the world and even in our country. Genetically modified organisms are also invasive alien species. These need deadly pesticides and herbicides. These herbicides and pesticides

harm the bees. There has not been a study till date about the harm caused to elephants by the spraying of herbicide. We are sorry to say that GEAC under your Ministry has given clearance to genetically modified mustard. India is a centre of diversity for mustard and this crop would need a lot of herbicides because of which the pollinators will die and become extinct. GMOs should also be listed as invasive alien species. I request you to take care that these invasive alien species are not introduced in the country as a precautionary principle.

**SHRI JOSE K. MANI:** This Bill has a lot of concern, in general, and to the State of Kerala, in particular. The State Government of Kerala, and the people of this state protect the forest and also the environment. Kerala has very high forest cover. The Wildlife Protection Act was introduced about 50 years back. But, the situation has changed now. Animals have started coming to the habitat area and attacking human beings. This Bill has totally neglected the animals and human-animal conflicts. The Government should amend the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to allow the State Governments to declare wild animals as vermin as their population has multiplied a thousand times and now lives in human habitations. Secondly, the law may also be amended to give protection to people who attack animals in self-defence and exempt them from charges. On the line of Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal, a Wildlife Accident Claims Tribunal may be set up for granting adequate and timely compensation for the loss of life and agricultural crops due to wildlife attacks. Lastly, in order to prevent further loss of human life and to control the damage caused by wild animals in areas outside the forest, 500 metre interior from there should be forest boundary, that is, Human Sensitive Zone border.

**SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:** Security and safety of the wild animals, birds and plants have to be given the prime consideration as they are also part and parcel of the ecosystem. The Bill includes Asiatic elephant, but excludes the tamed elephants. My suggestion is that tamed elephants should be incorporated in the Schedule because Asiatic elephant is there in the Bill. The introduction of an exotic plant species in Seshachalam Hills has disturbed the ecological balance in Chittoor, Kadapa and Nellore

districts of Andhra Pradesh. Now, these have to be replaced with native species. So, Clause 3, which deals with it, is a good move. Secondly, Red Sander Tree is smuggled out of our country and any action for its smuggling comes under the Customs Act and not under the Wildlife Protection Act. It is because this tree is not covered under the Scheduled Species. So, I suggest for consideration of the hon. Minister to include Red Sander under the relevant Schedule which will help to take action under this legislation, thereby we can reduce smuggling and save this tree from extinction. Clause 62 of the Bill empowers the Government of India to declare any animal as vermin. Nothing has been mentioned in this Clause on the process to be followed to identify as to which animals are vermin. It will have ecological consequences. Even the National Board for Wildlife has to be categorically given such directions. The Bill proposes to increase penalties. That is a welcome step.

**SHRI RAMJI:** Some doubts come to mind regarding this Bill, whether we are going to start trading wild animals or plants internationally? Is there any provision in it to prevent this? It has been observed in CITES that trade in wild animals or plants, whether legal or illegal, has taken place across the country. Under this Bill, there is a provision to displace tribals or forest dwellers. They get a compensation of only ten lakh rupees, but with ten lakh rupees neither they can go out of the forest and build their house nor can they make any arrangement for their life. I would like to tell the government that instead of 10 lakh this amount should be increased to 25-50 lakh rupees. Along with this, if this forest land is cleared for any industrialist, then strictest rules and laws should be made for it, so that the people living on this land are not removed just for profit. Some concrete steps should be taken for this so that tribals or forest dwellers can be protected. In the Terai area of Lakhimpur Kheri, many times there is a conflict between the wild animals and the people living there, in which many people have lost their lives. There is a provision of compensation of only five lakh rupees from the government there, while in Maharashtra, compensation of twenty lakh rupees is given for the death of any person due to wildlife. The government should come up with a provision that there should be uniformity in this.

**SHRI G.K. VASAN:** It is our collective responsibility to protect the environment which is essential for the survival of flora and fauna. The declaration of wild animal as vermin has been done without any scientific assessment or study, and, in the case of this Bill, it would now mean that species such as Striped Hyena, Indian Fox, Bengal Fox, etc., could be declared as vermin very easily. This would have far-reaching consequences for the environmental ecosystem and may result in an imbalance. It could also affect other endangered species. Therefore, there is a need for clarity on what types of animals can be declared as vermin. With these words, I welcome the Bill.

**SHRI BINOY VISWAM:** I question the purpose of the Bill and the intention of the Government behind this. This earth has a place for the wildlife also, for the plants also. All living beings should have a place there. That is the concept. I am asking, whether this idea is being shared by your Bill. Intent, modern scientific outlook, all have been ignored. This Government is committed to Paris Agreement. We are committed to bio-diversity, to the environment, and in that way, to the wildlife also. But, many of the provisions of this Bill contradict the Biological Diversity Act. This is a trade oriented amendment. Wildlife and all its subsidiary parts are for international trade. The CITES is regarding trade only. Sir, this Act affects the lives of the wild bees also. All these basic approaches are forgotten in this Bill. Please refer this Bill to a Standing Committee for proper debate and discussion to make it foolproof.

**SHRI RAKESH SINHA:** This agreement was signed in Washington in 1973. India did its rectification in 1976. There was an amendment in 1979. Invasive plants and animals have caused damage worth Rs 127 billion in India over 60 years. Cheetah was last seen in India in 1947. Due to tourism, the income of the people of Sahariya tribe, their per capita income has increased. Today, since the arrival of those 8 cheetahs in the Sahariya tribe, their entire environment has changed. Not just 8 cheetahs have come, but this is an important step towards the conservation of India's wildlife. India has 8 percent wildlife of the whole world. The diversity that is in our life, that diversity is also in our wild life. We not only see ourselves in the

culture we come from, but also the animals, birds and plants that come around us. 50 percent of birds have become extinct. One reason for this is pollution and environment, the other reason is trafficking. In 2021, this trafficking has created a market of \$ 19.2 billion. Trafficking worth trillions of rupees is happening all over the world, in which India's participation is 20 percent. What federal system is it hurting when we are making laws to stop that trafficking! The damage is being done to those mafias, who are destroying the environment for their selfishness. 1,20,000 plants and animals are invasive. Invasive plants and animals are those that come from outside without being native to a particular country. These plants and animals coming from outside threaten the local economy and the environment. There is an invasive plant named 'Lantana camara', which came to India in 1800 AD. Today, this plant is spread over 1,54,000 square kilometers of the Himalayan region, which is called the Tiger Region. Due to these our soil productivity decreases, our agricultural productivity decreases and our climate changes. If there is talk of ending these invasive plants, in which more than 350 have been identified, then there are 3% such invasive plants, which we are not even able to get information about, which have been coming in India for centuries. (*Speech unfinished.*)

*Discussion not concluded.*

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## **SPECIAL MENTIONS**

### **1. Need to Establish Circle Office of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in Tripura**

**SHRI BIPLAB KUMAR DEB:** Tripura has world famous Maa Tripura Sundari Temple as a national heritage, besides archaeological sites of unique cultural heritage like Unakoti, Pilak, Bhuvaneshwari Temple and Boxnagar, which can add to the tourism of the state. The responsibility of their maintenance is with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The organization is doing its work well, but due to the absence of its circle office in the state, many times a situation of communication gap arises. Having a circle office of the ASI in Agartala will help in enhancing cooperation with the

state in the development and promotion of these sites. Conservation and cultural development of sites of archaeological importance will lead to development of tourism sector in Tripura. The establishment of ASI circle office in the state will contribute significantly to the overall development and conservation of the archaeological sites of the state. I urge the government to set up a circle office of the Archaeological Survey of India in Tripura.

*(Dr. Amar Patnaik, Dr. Sasmit Patra, Dr. Fauzia Khan and Dr. John Brittas associated.)*

## **2. Need for Enacting a Law to Prohibit Black Magic and Superstitions**

**SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P:** There are a large number of reports of black magic and witchcraft from all parts of the country. Many citizens even die due to such malpractices. These malpractices are a clear violation of the right to life guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution. According to the National Crime Records Bureau report for the year 2021, human sacrifice caused 6 deaths, while witchcraft caused 68 murders. The present Indian Penal Code is not capable of preventing crimes committed due to black magic and other superstitious practices. Section 302 of the IPC, which punishes murder, also takes cognizance of human sacrifice only after the murder has taken place. Some states of India like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh etc. have already made laws to deal with these evil practices, but there is still no central law which specifically deals with crimes committed as a result of witchcraft, superstition or tantra mantra related activities. The government should take the initiative to enact a comprehensive anti-superstition law at the national level, applicable to all States and Union Territories.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated)*

### **3. Need to Frame Legislations to Honour India's International Obligations**

**PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA:** Every year, the Parliament passes domestic legislation that is consistent with India's obligations under various international covenants. However, India is also a signatory to various other human and socio-economic rights conventions that remain unfulfilled. India is also a signatory to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which prohibits advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitute incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. Despite that, there is no separate legislation or strong laws on mob lynching. Under the Genocide Convention, India is obliged to prevent crimes against humanity through international cooperation. However, Rohingyas were expelled from the Indian territory and sent to a place where their lives and freedom would be threatened. I urge the Government to honour India's international obligations and bring in necessary legislations and amendments.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated)*

### **4. Need to Conduct Independent Audit by CAG into Working of Welfare Schemes of Union Government**

**SHRI BINOY VISWAM:** Sir, rampant fraud and leaks in several welfare schemes funded by the Union Government have meant that the intended beneficiaries bear the brunt and are adversely affected. Over Rs. 150 crores of fraud have occurred under the PM-Kisan Scheme due to ineligible beneficiaries drawing benefits. Several FIRs have already been filed in this regard across the country. Similarly, the *Pradhan Mantri Bima Fasal Yojana*, a Scheme to provide insurance protection to farmers who face crop loss, has given abysmally low-sum insurance claims to farmers. Their distress is further compounded by the perpetual delays that farmers face in receiving their rightful insurance claims. Another project of the Union Government was the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana which aims to aid economically weaker sections of the society in building homes by providing subsidized home loans. This scheme has also fallen prey to

fraud with the CBI having uncovered thousands of crores of scams where loans have been granted under fictitious and fake names. There is an urgent need for the Government to immediately conduct an independent audit by the CAG into the workings of these schemes, prosecute the culprits, and restructure the schemes to check such fraud.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

#### **5. Need for Revising the Income Ceiling Limit for Other Backward Classes (OBC)**

**SHRI P. WILSON:** The Expert Committee headed by R.N. Prasad on 10.03.1993 identified creamy layer for exclusion of socially advanced persons and the Committee submitted a report categorizing the list of creamy layer persons for exclusion from OBC reservations which was accepted by the DoPT on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 1993, and adopted for implementation of the scheme of reservation for OBC in Central Services, and regarding the exclusion of creamy layer. The income limit threshold was initially fixed at Rs.1 lakh in 1993 and same was increased and last revised from Rs.6 lakh to Rs.8 lakh in September, 2017 by DoPT. The said income ceiling has not been revisited for more than five years and does not take into account inflation and changes in monetary value and time, leading to OBC persons from achieving equality, thereby, hampering the goal to social justice. The three year period for revision of ceiling of Rs.8 lacs for OBCs has already ended on 1.9.2020 and, therefore, it is the dire need of the hour to revise the income ceiling to Rs.15 lakhs as per NCBC-2015 recommendations. This will enable the OBC students to apply for admission in higher educational institutions as well as for Government employment from the academic year 2023 onwards. I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps for revising the income ceiling limit for OBCs.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

**6. Need for Minimum Pension Scheme and Full Coverage under ECHS Medical Plan for Indian Ex-serviceman (ORS Category) who Fought in 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War**

**SHRI ABDUL WAHAB:** In 1971, India and its army played a significant role in the liberation of Bangladesh. However, after the war, with the implementation of Third Pay Commission, many of the soldiers who bravely fought the Pakistani army were forced to retire citing various reasons. On February 22, 2019, through our hon. Prime Minister agreed to their request for medical expenditure under the ECHS for all, the demand for consideration of minimum pension for Ex-servicemen under the category of other rank service were not taken into account. I urge the Government particularly the office of Prime Minister to consider the demand of all who fought against Pakistan in Bangladesh Liberation War with a service of seven years to be considered for minimum pension scheme and full coverage under the ECHS medical plan.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

**7. Need to Approve and Allocate Funds for the Infrastructure Development Project for Betterment of Scheduled Tribes Population of Kolli Hills in Namakkal District of Tamil Nadu**

**SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:** Kolli Hills in Namakkal district, Tamil Nadu is full of tribal population, approx. 35,000 people living in 14 hamlets/villages at an attitude of 4,500 Ft., spread across approximately 280 km. These people do not have access to proper internet connectivity and network coverage which in-turn affects their daily life. People from these villages are climbing up and down daily for their medical, commercial and other needs. Assessing employment job portals, receiving email communications, internet banking facility, online education are nightmares for them. Under Article 275 (1) of tribal development grants, to develop their livelihoods and to bridge the gap between Scheduled Tribes (ST) population and others, Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu sent a proposal to develop infrastructure to attain goals like giving high speed Internet connectivity through long distance wireless points, mentoring the

tribal students through online interaction from different parts of the world by experts to bring them at par with urban students, connecting Primary Health Center (PHC) to give telemedicine facility with help of community Assistants and addressing malnutrition and other basic health issue of tribal students and community. I humbly request the hon. Minister via this Special Mention (U/R 180A) to approve and allocate funds for this project for the betterment of ST people of Kolli Hills, Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu; under Article 275(1) of tribal development grants.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

#### **8. Proposed Disinvestment of HLL Lifecare Limited**

**SHRI A.A. RAHIM:** The HLL Lifecare limited is a Government of India owned Public Sector Undertaking in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. It produces various healthcare products and its brands have large marketshare in the country and abroad as well. HLL has its head office in Thiruvananthapuram and factories in 7 locations across India. HLL currently has 220 pathology labs, 47 imaging centres and 6 labs under the brand name Hindlabs. It runs a total of 253 pharmacies across India. HLL runs a subsidiary with the name of HLL Infra Tech Services Ltd. In 2020-21, the company reported a turnover of Rs. 5,081 crore. It is employing thousands of persons across States. Hence, HLL must not be disinvested and privatised. HLL factory in Kerala is situated on the land given by the State Government in view of advancing the public sector. Given that circumstance, Kerala has the right to retain HLL as State's Public Sector Unit (PSU) that is free from the Centre's hold. The land and assets owned by HLL should, therefore, be returned to Kerala or alternatively the State should be allowed to participate in its auction.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

#### **9. Need for Revising Sharing Patterns of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) for Odisha**

**DR. AMAR PATNAIK:** Inter and intra-State regional imbalances stem from an asymmetric growth exacerbated by the

historical socio-economic backwardness of vulnerable groups. The Aspirational Districts Programme is a step in that direction, with Odisha having 10 districts. No budgetary allocation and the delinking of 8 Centrally Sponsored Schemes have put immense financial burden on Odisha's exchequer. The unique geo-climatic conditions of Odisha make it vulnerable to multiple natural disasters. The hon. Chief Minister of Odisha has been demanding 'natural calamity' to be included as a criterion for Special Category Status or, have the status of 'Special Focused States' with benefits at par with North-Eastern and Himalayan States. I urge the Central Government to rework the sharing patterns of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in line with the geo-climatic, economic, and sociological necessity of States like Odisha.

*(Dr. Fauzia Khan, Dr. John Brittas and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)*

#### **10. Need for Development of Kannur Railway Station**

**DR. V. SIVADASAN:** Kannur Railway station is an important gateway to the historic land of Kannur. Kannur has one of the largest networks of co-operatives in India and is unique in having the largest network of public libraries in India. The land has immense tourism potential. The railway station at Kannur becomes an important connecting point in ensuring outward and inward mobility and, hence, there is a need to develop it to international standards. The development of Kannur railway station will also enhance the potential of the Kannur Airport and a synergy of all these avenues of mobility will help in the all-round development of Kannur. The immediate action by the Railways in this regard is essential for the land to achieve its true potential.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

#### **11. Need to Inspect Medical Standards of Sanitary Pads being Produced in India by Popular Brands**

**DR. FAUZIA KHAN:** A study conducted by Toxics Link, a Delhi based NGO, concluded that two of the most popular sanitary pads of the country contain six kinds of phthalates. Phthalates are

most popularly employed as plasticisers in several products, referring to chemicals that ensure a product is soft, flexible, and has reduced friction on the surface. Their presence in sanitary pads can induce endometriosis, complications in pregnancy, underdevelopment of the foetus, hypertension, etc. The presence of VOCs, used to add fragrance, has further alarmed the situation, as they can potentially have harmful effects on human health. These chemicals are easily procured by the manufacturers due to a loophole in the Bureau of Indian Standards' (1980) prescribed test. A structured approach accompanied by a study/test of the sanitary pads available in the market should be our top priority. The consumers should be made aware of the presence of such chemicals by 'labelling' these products. It is high time that the Government commences to improve and strengthen the standards prescribed suiting the modern day scientific advancements, which would ultimately protect the women and mothers of our country.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

## **12. Need to Implement Recommendations of Various Commissions in Relation to Governors and their Role**

**DR. JOHN BRITTAS:** Holding a Bill passed by the Assembly instead of assenting or returning it for reconsideration as soon as possible as per Article 200, misquoting the limited discretionary power of Governors under Article 163 etc. are common occurrences these days. Several Commissions as well as the Supreme Court have all stressed over the years the importance of Governor as an autonomous and impartial agent who would serve as a bridge between the State and the Centre. Various Commissions also recommended for introducing the procedure of consultation with the State Chief Minister in the selection of Governors and time-limit for taking decisions by Governors on granting assent or reserving a Bill for consideration of the President or returning a Bill for reconsideration. But none of those recommendations have been

accepted by the Government in letter and spirit so far. I urge upon the Government to take urgent steps to implement the recommendations of the said Commissions vis-a-vis the Governors.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

**P. C. MODY,**  
*Secretary-General.*

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**ERRATA TO THE SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE DATED  
7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2022**

<b>Page No.</b>	<b>Line No.</b>	<b>Correction</b>
7	21	Delete <b>'the'</b> after <b>'you are'</b> .
14	11	Read <b>'the'</b> for <b>'that'</b> before <b>'time'</b> .
15	11	Delete <b>'such'</b> before <b>'pride and love'</b>
17	14	Add <b>'I am'</b> before <b>'deeply moved'</b>
17	31-32	Delete <b>'hon.Members,'</b> before <b>'With each election'</b>
29	3	Add <b>'The Hon'ble Minister, replying to the points raised by the Members, said:'</b> before <b>'Starting with Shri Amar Patnaikji'</b>