

## RAJYA SABHA

### \*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, August 09, 2023/ Sravana 18, 1945 (Saka)

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon'ble Members, I take the opportunity to wish birthday greetings to hon'ble Member of Parliament, **Shri Mahesh Jethmalani**, an esteemed legal luminary, a Member of this House since June, 2021. I give him a credit of being very polite in corridors of courts, but on the contrary, he is very tough from inside. He is the son of distinguished jurist, former Member of Parliament, former Minister and legal legend, late Shri Ram Jethmalani. I had the privilege and honour to be in Parliament along with Shri Ram Jethmalani. Mahesh Jethmalani ji is an alumnus of St. Xavier's College, Mumbai and University of Oxford. He hails from an illustrious family with rich contributions in legal, political and freedom field. He has been a Member of Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws, of which he is an acknowledged expert. He is married to Smt. Haseena Jethmalani and the couple is blessed with two sons--Amartya & Agastya, and daughter Serena.

**Shri Sandosh Kumar P** is a Member of this House since April, 2022. He belongs to freedom fighter's family from northern Malabar region. He is a practicing lawyer. He has risen through the ranks of youth politics in his home State of Kerala. He is married to Smt. Lalitha M. and the couple is blessed with a son, Ritvik, and a daughter, Hridya.

On your and my behalf, I wish them a long, healthy and happy life and extend our greetings to their families and friends.

### REFERENCE BY THE CHAIR

#### Celebrating Eighty First Anniversary of Quit India Movement

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon'ble Members, today, the 9th of August, 2023, marks the 81st anniversary of the historic day on which the 'Quit India Movement' was launched by Mahatma Gandhi, in the year 1942. The clarion call of 'Do or Die' given by the Father of the Nation infused the masses with a new-found energy which culminated in our nation achieving Independence from the yoke of colonial rule. The Quit India Movement is an epitome of what people are capable of achieving if they work in togetherness for a cause with determination and dedication. The call of 'Quit India', though is almost eight decades old, has never been more relevant than in our Amrit Kaal. It is gratifying to note that since Independence, efforts had been made to contain poverty, enhancing literacy, neutralizing discrimination and bringing about social inclusivity. On all of these fronts, the nation is proud of its achievements in Amrit Kaal and undoubtedly, we are on our way to centennial

celebration in 2047. The progress on all these aspects will be incremental. Hon. Members, on this solemn occasion, we pay our humble and respectful homage to all those martyrs who laid down their lives for the cause of our freedom. We also re-affirm our commitment to uphold the sovereignty, integrity and rededicate ourselves for the service of Bharat. As Member of Parliament, it is an occasion for us to introspect, reflect on our moral contributions and rededicate with greater vigour to be in service of the nation, to realize the aspirations of the people at large and to secure place of pride for Bharat in comity of nations.

I request the Members to rise in their places and observe silence as a mark of respect to the sacred memory of the martyrs.

*(One minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of the martyrs.)*

---

### FELICITATIONS BY THE CHAIR

#### **Felicitations to Indian Athletes for their Outstanding Performance at World University Games at Chengdu, People's Republic of China**

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Hon'ble Members it is a moment of immense pride for us. Our athletes have scripted history by their spectacular performance at the World University Games, 2023 at Chengdu, the People's Republic of China from July 28th to August 8th, 2023. I am inviting attention of the hon'ble Members to great achievements by our athletes. At the 31st World University Games, the Indian athletes return with a record-breaking haul of 26 medals. Hon'ble Members, it was our best performance ever at World University Games where our athletes bagged 11 gold medals, five silver medals and ten bronze medals. Their achievements reflect our rapid stride forward in the arena of sports and are testimony to the unwavering focus, tremendous hard work and wholehearted dedication of our sportspersons. This is also on account of affirmative Government initiatives and policies. Their exemplary performance is bound to inspire and motivate the nation. On behalf of the House, and my own, I extend our felicitations to the athletes and wish them all the success in their future endeavours.

---

### GOVERNMENT BILLS

#### **1. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023, *as passed by Lok Sabha***

**THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR):** I move that the Bill further to amend The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, to modify the list of Scheduled Castes in the State of Chhattisgarh, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

**SHRIMATI SULATA DEO:** I, on behalf of my party Biju Janata Dal, support this Bill. This Bill has been brought for inclusion of Mahar, Mahara, Mahra, Mehar and Mehra communities in the list of Schedules castes in the State of Chhattisgarh. After this bill is passed, at least two lakh people of Chhattisgarh will be included in the list of scheduled castes and they will also get full benefits of government schemes.

**DR. SUMER SINGH SOLANKI:** I rise to speak in support of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023. It has been brought to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 to revise the list of Scheduled Castes in the State of Chhattisgarh. The Bill proposes to include Mahar, Mahara, Mahra, Mehar and

Mehra castes in the list of Scheduled Castes. I express my gratitude to the Government that work is being done to bring such backward and small castes into the mainstream in every corner of the country, which were still out of the mainstream.

**SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:** This Bill includes a particular group in the SC category. Without there being any infrastructure, merely giving SC status is of no use, because they are living in a very pathetic condition in the society. They are facing many troubles and the Government is not providing them any infrastructure and medical facilities. They have to be provided by the respective State Governments since it is a State subject. Some of the lands belonging to SCs are being taken away in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Atrocities and attacks on SC women are being committed. Some false cases are also being filed against the SCs. They need to be protected. The Central Government has to take care of and protect the interests of the SCs, particularly in Andhra Pradesh.

**SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI :** The objective of this Bill is to modify the existing list of Scheduled Castes in Chhattisgarh by including the 'Mahar', 'Mahara', 'Mahra', 'Mehar' and 'Mehra' communities. The 'Mahar' are the original inhabitants of Maharashtra. Since time immemorial, the Mahar community has faced harsh discrimination from the upper castes. The inclusion of these communities in the Scheduled Castes list will pave the way for grant of reservation in educational institutions and Government jobs for them. Besides education and economic empowerment, there is a need to promote diversity and representation in the Judiciary. The Government must increase the representation of qualified and deserving candidates from SC communities in the judicial system. This Amendment further strengthens the concept of 'unity in diversity'. With these suggestions, on behalf of YSR Congress Party, I support this Bill.

**DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:** On behalf of AIADMK Party, I am support this Bill which has been brought to make the Amendment in the Constitution to include certain communities as Scheduled Castes in the State of Chhattisgarh. In Karnataka, the Boyar community belongs to the Scheduled Castes, but not so in the neighbouring State of Tamil Nadu. Therefore, the AIADMK Party demands that the Boyar community may be included in the list of Scheduled Castes.

**SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:** On behalf of my Party, I support this Bill wholeheartedly. Many welfare schemes have been introduced for the upliftment of Scheduled Castes in the State of Andhra Pradesh. I would request the hon. Minister to support the State in the upliftment of the SC, ST, BC and minority communities.

**The hon'ble Minister, replying to the debate, said:** I would like to thank all our honourable members for participating in this discussion regarding the inclusion of 'Mahra' and 'Mahara' community in the Scheduled Castes of Chhattisgarh State. Our brothers of Mahara and Maahara community of Chhattisgarh are living at the last end of the last line of the society. During the period when this bill was passed by the Lok Sabha and came here, continuous contact was being established by the brothers of this community of Chhattisgarh. They expected that this bill should be passed unanimously. All the honourable members have spoken in support of it. Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's idea of equality and harmony and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's idea of Antyodaya. This has been the aim of the schemes launched by the Prime Minister of the country in the last nine years. Then whether it is about 'Namaste Scheme', whether it is about Venture Capital Fund, whether it is about Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. Through all these means, these schemes were taken forward to bring ease and self-reliance in their lives. Panchatirths related to the life of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar were also constructed.

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar ji is visible in the thinking of the Prime Minister and it also has the vision of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's Antyodaya. 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas' and everyone's collective effort in making India self-reliant. If we talk about the development of India, a brother of Scheduled Caste is seen everywhere. There is a huge contribution of our scheduled caste society in the development of the economy of our country. They earned a place in the society by their hard work and trust. Today, when these efforts were taken forward by the Prime Minister of the country, a sense of confidence has arisen in the Scheduled Castes. Some Hon'ble Members have requested for inclusion of certain castes in the list. There is a process to include any caste in the Scheduled Castes. Proposals from states and union territories are received. Then it goes to RGI. After approval from RGI it is sent to the commission. It then goes to the cabinet for approval. After coming from there, it is brought in the form of a bill in the House. In this way, when the proposal comes, it will be taken forward. A proposal was sent by undivided Madhya Pradesh to include 'Mahara' as a synonym for 'Mahar', 'Mehra' and 'Meher' there. In 1992, the RGI agreed to include the 'Mahra' caste in undivided Madhya Pradesh. In the year 2002, 'Mahara' was included in the category of Scheduled Castes of Madhya Pradesh as a synonym for 'Mahar', 'Mehra' and 'Meher'. When the state of Chhattisgarh was formed in the year 2000, then the state government of Chhattisgarh proposed to include 'Mahara' and 'Mehra' as synonyms of 'Mahar', 'Mehra' and 'Meher' of Scheduled Castes. It was supported by the RGI and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Tribes. It was also cleared by the concerned ministries and after that it was first brought in the Lok Sabha with the approval of the Union Cabinet. There it was passed unanimously and even today it has been supported by all the honourable members here. Chhattisgarh has a population of about two lakhs of 'Mehra' and 'Mahara', who do the work of weaving and Kotwari. Through inclusion in the category of Scheduled Castes, they will be able to get the benefit of all the facilities of the Central Government and the State Government. Therefore, I request the House to cooperate in getting the Bill passed unanimously, thank you.

*The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted.*

*Clauses etc., were adopted.*

*The Bill was passed.*

## **2. The Anusandhan National Research Foundation Bill, 2023, as passed by Lok Sabha**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):** I move that the Bill to establish the Anusandhan National Research Foundation to provide high level strategic direction for research, innovation and entrepreneurship in the fields of natural sciences including mathematical sciences, engineering and technology, environmental and earth sciences, health and agriculture, and scientific and technological interfaces of humanities and social sciences, to promote, monitor and provide support as required for such research and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

**SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:** I support the Bill because it is a very forward looking Bill. The hope is that this Bill will bring about an integrated and holistic change in the research and innovation ecosystem of our country. Research is a very capital intensive business. It is good that this bill involves private sector in research. We have very less allocation for research as compared to many developed countries. I think this Bill will correct this situation. For becoming a developed nation we have to focus on research and technology. Technology will be the key driver of this transformation. The Bill itself talks of independence or autonomy of the Board. I hope the Government will follow it in letter and spirit. State Universities will also get funds for research. The Governing Board should consist of eminent social scientists. I support this Bill.

**SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA:** This Bill is a very transformative one. The establishment of NRF is going to set up and going to give a new direction to reshape our nation's research, innovation and entrepreneurial landscape. For India to be a developed nation, research and innovation in line with our needs certainly have to be looked at. India, with its own geo-political situations, needs to innovate solutions for itself. We have to improve our research initiatives. India has just 255 researchers per million people. I think from the village level to the university level, we should have adequate machinery for research. We are spending very little money on research. We need to have the right kind of Budget allocation in place. We support this Bill from YSR Congress Party.

**SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR:** This body aims to direct research in strategic areas ranging from science to humanities. It plans to involve the private sector. This Bill not only provides but also undertakes annual survey of scientific research in India with a view to create a Central repository. The Bill proposes to create a conducive atmosphere to promote research in every field. But the Act provides to create an Executive Council for implementation. There is ambiguity with regard to qualifications. Eligibility criteria for the members, experience and the tenure has to be clarified. The functions of the committees have to be clarified. In view of the present Bill, a lot of changes would be brought into existence. I support this Bill.

**SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:** The Bill is a significant step for revamping the entire R&D ecosystem. Therefore, the Y.S.R. Congress Party, supports this Bill. Given the fact that the Bill allows the private funding, I request to make stringent accountability checks to prevent the possible misuse of funding. India's spending on R&D is almost the lowest in the world. I request to kindly look into this issue. The third point is related to women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. There has been a historic absence of women in scientific disciplines in India. The number of women is very less in IITs. Of course, here we have, it's all women-managed Rajya Sabha.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

[rssynop@sansad.nic.in](mailto:rssynop@sansad.nic.in)

---

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