

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, December 13, 2023/ Agrahayana 22, 1945 (Saka)

REFERENCE BY THE CHAIR

Twenty-Second Anniversary of the Terrorist Attack on Parliament

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, today, we pay our humble tributes to the security personnel who made supreme sacrifice to defend the 'Temple of Democracy' twenty-two years ago. On this day, in 2001, the atrocious plan of terrorists to shake the foundation of our democracy by launching an armed attack on Indian Parliament was foiled by our brave security personnel and nine of them laid down their life defending our Parliament.

By their selfless act, these heroic martyrs set an example of unwavering devotion to duty and indomitable courage. Their sacrifice will be remembered as we reiterate our commitment to wipe out terrorism -a threat to humanity-in all its forms and manifestations. I speak in no uncertain terms that Bharat, the 'Mother of Democracy' will emerge mightier and stronger whenever such nefarious efforts are made to shake us.

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

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Need to Curb Digital Frauds in the Country

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: With the increase in digital transactions and the economy becoming cashless one, the number of cases of digital fraud is also increasing. Fraudsters make a call to the people on the pretext of updating PAN number, unblocking accounts, offering gifts on credit cards etc. We need strict measures to stop this menace. Payments through cards and UPI have increased, but people are losing lakhs of rupees in digital frauds. Their trap is so precise that even IT engineers, government officials, lawyers and accountants get trapped in it and the number of poor people among them is very high. A comprehensive action plan is needed to improve the digital awareness of people. Most people are not aware of the security measures they should take for their financial security. Indian banks have put in place important measures and suggestions including standard operating procedures to prevent cash flow on reporting frauds. According to the Government figures more than 1.3 million complaints have been received since the launch of the national cyber reporting system. The police are also not well trained in these matters. It is very important to take action in this regard.

2. Demand to Change the Name of Sanjay Gandhi National Park and Tiger Reserve Situated in Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: Name has great importance in today's times. Madhya Pradesh is a tiger state. Sidhi district situated in Madhya Pradesh is rich in natural wealth and natural features. The world's first white tiger was caught by the then Rewa Maharaj Martand Singh ji in the Bargari forest of Sidhi district. That tiger was respectfully called 'Mohan Singh'. Mohan Singh produced 34 tiger cubs by mating with a tigress named 'Radha'. All the white tigers in the world today are descendants of Mohan Singh. Mohan Singh died in 1969. A postage stamp on Mohan was also issued in the year 1987.

3. Demand to Include Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD) in Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

SHRI JAGESH: An arrhythmia is a disorder of human heart rate or rhythm. This disorder results from problems in the electrical system of the heart. If this disorder is serious, a patient may need a cardiac pacemaker or an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD). They are devices that are implanted in chest or abdomen to control abnormal heart rhythms. It uses electrical pulses to make the heart beat at a normal rate. An ICD can help control life-threatening heart rate disorder. In all health-related Government schemes, claim is extended only for single or double chamber pacemaker, but the cost of ICD is not covered by any health schemes. Due to which patient has to bear the full cost which is very high. I urge the Government to include ICD in Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana i.e. Ayushman Bharat, so that lakhs of patients are benefitted with this. It will be a boon for patients suffering from this life-threatening heart disorder.

4. Demand to Provide Facility of Lawyer for the Welfare of Under trial Prisoners

SHRI SAKET GOKHALE: I spent half of this year in the Sabarmati Central Jail in Gujarat as an undertrial prisoner. About 77 per cent of prisoners in India are under-trials who are technically innocent until proven guilty. They are woken up at early in the morning. After that, lunch is served at 9 o'clock in the morning. Then, dinner is served at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The dinner consists of two rotis and a bowl of boiled potatoes. This food is unfit for human consumption. In a barrack meant for 40 people, 80 to 85 people are stuffed together. If a prisoner comes with a concern, the prison guards tie him to a pole and beat him for 15 minutes so that he never opens his mouth again. The majority of under-trials in jail are there for petty offences. Sexual assault is rampant. Patients with mental health are kept with the other prisoners. They get bullied and they also get sexually abused. Prison guards turn a blind eye to it. The legal aid for them is non-existent.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Demand to Make Arrangement for Cancellation of Waiting Ticket Purchased from Window Counter at Railway Station

SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Railways acts as the backbone of the Indian public transport system in the country. Nearly crores of citizens across the country use the services of Railways every day. Despite the facility of online reservation, even today most of the passengers in the country take railway tickets from the window counter. According to the current rule, if the waiting ticket is not confirmed, then the waiting ticket taken from the window can be canceled up to half an hour after the departure of the train. But passengers are facing a lot of inconvenience in this. Charts for trains that open early in the morning or late at night are usually prepared late at night and by that time the ticket counters are usually closed. In such a situation, passengers whose tickets are not confirmed

are left with no option to cancel the tickets, hence they are forced to either travel on waiting tickets or lose their money. I suggest the government to introduce an alternative system for cancellation of window tickets. A helpline number should also be issued so that passengers can get their tickets cancelled on call. Cancellation fees for reserved railway tickets have also increased significantly, due to which poor passengers have to face a lot of trouble. I also suggest that the cancellation charges for sleeper and third AC tickets should be reduced.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

6. Demand to set up National Council to improve the standard of Education in Primary Schools

SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY: I would like to congratulate the Ministry of Education for making efforts for improving the quality of higher education by setting up the 'RUSA', a National Higher Education Scheme. The New Education Policy, 2022 gives importance to primary education in the country. But the Government schools lack basic infrastructural facilities. Only if the infrastructure of the school and the quality of teaching is attractive, we can achieve 100 per cent literacy at the primary level. There are 12.22 lakhs schools in India that impart elementary education. The quality of education and access to basic amenities in these schools is far from satisfactory. I request for setting up of National Council for improvement of primary education.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

7. Demand to issue One Certificate Replacing the Existing Practice of Issuance of Multiple Certificates in the Country

MS. KAVITA PATIDAR: I urge the Government that in line with the innovative scheme 'One Nation, One Ration Scheme' launched by the Government, One Nation, One Certificate Scheme should also be started which includes birth certificate, domicile certificate and also caste certificate. These three certificates are made by different departments, due to which the persons who want to get these certificates have to visit different departments, which is not only very time-consuming, but they have also to pay unnecessarily for them separately. Here, it is worthy of mention that except the registration number of birth certificate, caste certificate and residence certificate, almost all the information to be given remains the same. Therefore, I humbly request the Government that birth certificate itself should be legalized as an alternative to caste certificate and permanent residence certificate so that the brothers and sisters of my country do not have to visit various departments and offices for the same and only one certificate may serve all their purposes.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

8. Concern over Widespread Deforestation in Assam

SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN: It is a matter of great concern that widespread deforestation is going on unabated in our own country. Assam Government continues to destroy forests at an unprecedented scale. We are seeing thousands of valuable 'sal trees' cut down in the Kamrup and Goalpara districts. Even after protests and concerns, this has not stopped. Dihing Patkai region is also witnessing illegal coal mining alongside forest destruction. I urge the Government to take immediate action against widespread deforestation in Assam.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Concern over Unseasonable Rain in the Country

SHRIMATI RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL: I want to express my concern about the changes that are taking place all over the world due to climate change. There was a lot of rain in our country recently including in Chennai and in Maharashtra, due to which people suffered huge losses. The government should have a permanent plan in place for such situations because we see such problems occurring every year. All these problems are caused by climate change. The government has of late taken two decisions which have a direct bearing on my state. Firstly, the government has banned the export of onion, which is causing loss to our farmers. Secondly, they have banned the production of ethanol. We had 100-150 factories for the production of ethanol, which is mixed with petrol, which helps in keeping the price of petrol low and our farmers got good prices for sugarcane. The government should make a policy keeping all these things in mind.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

10. Demand to Establish a Museum in the Memory of the Foreign Nationals for their contribution in the Struggle for Indian Independence

SHRI RAKESH SINHA: As we celebrated Amrit Mahotsav, our understanding of history, knowledge of history and the perspective of history, all three expanded. In this context, I want to say that India's freedom movement was not just for political-economic purposes and for political-economic reasons, nor was it by political-economic elites. It had a cultural consciousness embedded in it, which attracted people from all over the world. These include, among others, some foreign nationals, such as Madeleine Slade, whom Mahatma Gandhi called Mira Ben and gave her a spiritual name. She played a big role in the freedom movement and was imprisoned in 1942 and 1944. Apart from these, there was also Katherine Helman. She contributed to the freedom movement for a long time and we know her as 'Sarala Devi'. Similarly, C.F. Andrews, whom we know as 'Deenbandhu', did a lot of work for the downtrodden and the poor people of the country and launched a big campaign against economic exploitation under British imperialism. Mahatma Gandhi had called him Deenbandhu. I request the government to pay attention to the contribution made by such foreign citizens.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

11. Demand to Strengthen Ecosystem for Diagnosis, Treatment and Rehabilitation of Patients suffering from Rare and Genetic disorder

SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA: India is a large country with over 140 crore population. As a result, the number of cases of rare and genetic disorders is also huge. As per Government estimates, about 7.2 crore to 9.6 crore Indians suffer from 6,000 different rare or genetic diseases in the country. These include diseases like Sickle Cell Anemia, Spinal Muscular Atrophy, Down Syndrome and Cystic Fibrosis, etc. There are primarily three challenges. First category of challenge is related to diagnosis. There is lack of awareness about rare diseases in general public as well as in the medical fraternity. Second category of challenge is related to treatment. Despite progress in recent years, effective or safe treatment is not available for most of these rare diseases. Third category of challenge is Prevention and Control of Rare Diseases. In this regard, I would like to suggest that first of all, more and more epidemiological data on these diseases may be gathered and accordingly, remedial steps can be taken to surmount this problem.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

12. Demand to Reconsider the Decision of Not Imposing Anti-Dumping

Duty on Imported Polyester Spun Yarn

SHRI SANJEEV ARORA: The textile industry is going through a very bad phase. An immediate action is required from the Textile Ministry and the Finance Ministry in this regard. More than 45 million workers are directly employed by the industry, not to talk about indirect beneficiaries. To save the industry, we need to make import of cotton and polyester fibre cheaper, rather it should be duty free, and anti-dumping duty should be imposed on duty free imports of polyester yarn from the countries falling under Asian FTA. There is a need to help the industry and also further help to 'Make in India' mission by making raw material cheaper and finished products costlier to get into this country.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

13. Demand to Exempt Charitable Trust Hostels from GST

SHRI NARHARI AMIN: There are many social, educational and religious charitable trusts in Gujarat which provide hostel facilities to the students studying in schools and colleges at nominal fees. The purpose of these charitable trusts is to provide charitable service, not to earn profit. Apart from this, hostels run by charitable trusts also provide food and laundry facilities. Educational institutions like schools and colleges run by these charitable trusts are exempted from GST rate, but it has been decided by the GST Council, Government of India to levy GST at the rate of 12 percent on the hostels run by these charitable trusts. There are 500 to 600 such hostels run by charitable trusts in Gujarat, where food, laundry etc. services are provided to poor and middle class students for nominal fees. I request the Finance Minister through you that these hostels run by charitable trusts should be exempted from the recently decided 12 percent GST rate.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

14. Concern over Rising Suicide Rates amongst Young Women in India

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: I want to express my concern about rising suicide cases among young women. As per the records, it is happening more in south India, especially in Kerala, Karnataka, etc. I feel that it is because of under reporting of suicides in north India. The slogan should be changed to 'Beti bachao, beti padhao aur beti ko khudkushi se bachao' under the able leadership of the hon'ble Prime Minister. The Government machinery needs to have more counseling centres, more facilities and infrastructure to educate the young women. Our new generation get stressed immediately. I urge the Government to take more positive action in this regard.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

15. Demand to connect rail-route of Nauchandi Express running between Meerut to Lucknow with Panipat via Budhana

SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: Meerut is a historical city. The first freedom struggle of 1857 started from Meerut. I would like to thank the Central Government for providing Asia's first regional rapid train to Meerut. Still the Nauchandi Express runs from Meerut to Lucknow for a very long time. But now it is going to be started from Saharanpur instead of Meerut. Dozens of trains are already running between Saharanpur and Lucknow, so it will cause huge inconvenience to the passengers of Meerut. Similarly, surveys have been conducted several times to connect Panipat to Meerut, but that work has not been done yet. Meerut is also a huge sports hub and the only train, Nauchandi Express runs from there to the capital in the evening and there are no other

trains. I request the Honorable Railway Minister that it should be run from Meerut only and a railway line should be given to Meerut, Sardhana, Budhana, Kairana, Panipat.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

16. Issue of Misappropriation of Panchayati Raj Funds in the State of Telangana

DR. K. LAXMAN: I want to raise an issue of misappropriation of Panchayati Raj Funds in the State of Telangana. Based on the recommendation of the 15th Finance Commission, the Union Government transferred nearly Rs.3,500 crore for the local bodies like Zila Parishad, Mandal Parishad and even for Gram Panchayats for the welfare and other developmental activities in the respective Gram Panchayats. But, the officials of Panchayati Raj Department in the State, without the knowledge of Sarpanches, misused the digital key of bank account of Sarpanches. And diverted the funds to pay old dues, advance payment of power bills, etc. which is against the norms of the Panchayat Act. MGNREGA funds are being diverted and utilized for other schemes. On the other hand, Local bodies are suffering for shortage of funds and are unable to take up minimum development programmes. I request the Government to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into all these deeds and take necessary steps to protect the rights of the local bodies and ensure that funds are deposited in the concerned village panchayat account so that they can take up minimum necessary development activities for the welfare and betterment of the villages.

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

17. Demand for Expansion of Patna Airport and Starting Air Service from Patna to Kathmandu

SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL: During the tenure of hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, there has been development in all sectors. Airports have also increased from 74 to 148, but the airport of Patna, which we know as Jaiprakash Narayan International Airport, though its name is international, but not a single international flight departs from there. Also, the runway there is quite short. That is why it is considered a dangerous airport. Therefore, through this House, I would request the government to expand the runway of Jaiprakash Narayan International Airport in Patna and provide flight facility for Kathmandu from Patna so that people from Bihar can directly go to visit Baba Pashupatinath.

(Dr. Sasmit Patra, Dr. Amar Patnaik, Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba and Dr. Santanu Sen associated.)

18. Demand to Complete Indore-Manmad New Rail Line Project

DR. SUMER SINGH SOLANKI: There is a 105 year old demand for Indore-Manmad rail route in Nimar region of Madhya Pradesh, but that demand has not been fulfilled till date. With the construction of this railway route, more than five districts of our tribal area and more than 13 assembly constituencies will be connected and the journey of many trains will be reduced by 250-600 kilometers. Along with this, such historical and religious tourist places of Nimar Malwa, which include famous tourist places like Maheshwar, Omkareshwar, Mahakal, Mandu, Statue of Unity, Bavangaja, Nagalwadi, will also be connected by this rail route and will be useful to the tribal-farmer brothers and sisters. I request the government through you that if construction of railway route in this

area under the Tribal Pride Corridor happens, it will benefit the tribal brothers and sisters of my area and will also lead to development of the area.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

GOVERNMENT BILL

(i) The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023, as passed by Lok Sabha

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION; AND THE MINISTER OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN), moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said: I would like to mention certain points before the House. In the year 2014, when the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated, The Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014 was passed and two states i.e., Telangana and Andhra Pradesh were formed. The Government had given an assurance of setting up certain educational institutions over there, under which there was a mention of establishing two Central Tribal Universities in both the states. Meanwhile, a Tribal University has already been established in Andhra Pradesh, which is functional from a temporary campus in Vizianagaram. The Vice-Chancellor of this university has also been appointed. Only two months ago, I along with the Chief Minister of that state had laid the foundation stone for the new complex. On similar lines, there was a proposal to establish a Tribal University in Telangana also. However, due to delay in land acquisition by the state government, its establishment also got delayed. But recently, the Telangana state government has also made land available. Therefore, I have come before you today with this proposal that a Central Tribal University should be established in Telangana also. Naming this university as Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University further increases its importance because Sammakka Sarakka holds a respectable place in the minds of the tribals of India. They are a folk festival, the center of folk honour, the center of folk faith, in which the tribal people of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka have utmost reverence. Every two years a huge congregation takes place, and a tribal festival takes place. The proposal to establish this Central Tribal University at the same place, in the same district, has also been approved in the Lok Sabha. Under the leadership of hon'ble Prime Minister, the priority programs have been outlined for the tribal community to conduct an in-depth study of the tribes of India. The establishment of this university is also a similar effort in this direction. Hence, I urge the House to discuss and pass this important Bill.

***MS. DOLA SEN:** The country's history is being distorted. The original history is being suppressed. I observed this trend from close quarters when I visited the Cellular jail of Andaman islands. Undoubtedly, 90% of detainees belonged to Bengal state. But, now Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Barin Ghosh, Biren Dutta Gupta have been forgotten. Today, Savarkar has been hailed as a 'Veer'. Our original history belongs to great leaders like Gandhiji, Netaji, Ballabh Bhai Patelji, Ambedkarji, Rabindranath, Nazrul, Deshbandhu Chittaranjan, Rashbehari Bose, Binoy, Badal, Dinesh, Khudiram, Bhagat Singh and so on. It's a history of sacrificing lives voluntarily with a smile on the face. I hope this Government doesn't distort the history of Sammaka, Sarakka, the legendary mother-daughter duo who passionately battled for the welfare of the community. The vacancies reserved for SCs, STs, OBCs and economically backward communities remain unfulfilled. Unfortunately, the Central Government has given wrong information regarding the Telangana Tribal University a few days back. The State had offered the land in 2017 itself.

* Spoke in Bengali.

Today, the GST share of West Bengal is not getting released. It appears that the Modi government is willing to do away with the welfare of the people. The financial assistance under *Awas Yojana*, *Swachh Bharat Mission*, *Mid-day Meals Scheme* has been on a decline. The SC, ST, OBC students are committing suicides at our prestigious institutes. The expenditure on education remains highly inadequate. Recently, the name of Tagore was removed from the plaque of Viswa Bharati University. Though it has been rectified by the Central Government later, the act was unfortunate.

SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN: I rise to speak in favor of The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023. I am also proud that the young leader of my home state is bringing this important Bill by becoming the Education Minister of this country. I myself come from a district called Koraput in Odisha, which is a tribal dominated district. For the development of tribal people and access to justice, this district was divided into four districts. For this purpose, in the 1990s, the then Chief Minister Biju Patnaik had further increased these 13 districts to 30 districts. Our Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik ji has released an amount of Rs 500 to 600 crore for the development of tribals under '*Chief Minister Tribal Mission*' and other schemes. In a tribal society, different goddesses are worshiped in every village. Keeping this in mind, Rs. 600 crore has been given so that they can build their temple properly, maintain their musical instruments and follow their traditions. Telangana will have a tribal university, named after Sammakka Sarakka, who fought many battles for the tribals. We have a central university in Odisha, but it is not a tribal university. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that the shortcomings in that university should be removed. There should be a university in every district where tribal population is high. I fully support this Bill and hope that a central university for tribals will be built in Odisha also.

SHRI VIVEK THAKUR: This Bill reflects our commitments to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. To fulfill the promise that the Prime Minister had made to the people of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, today through this Bill, a Central Tribal University is going to be built in Telangana. By naming this university after the deities of the tribal community, Sammakka and Sarakka, our government has given respect to the tribal community. Macaulay's education policy of the year 1835 is based on the mentality of slavery. There is no inclusion of Indianness in that education policy. It is unfortunate that even after independence, they did not pay special attention to it. It was the result of the foresight of the Prime Minister that the National Education Policy came and understood and incorporated the importance of Indian traditional knowledge. This Tribal University will provide for unprecedented strengthening of the Indian Traditional Knowledge System, an important part of the National Education Policy 2020, by promoting research in tribal art, heritage, culture and traditional medicines. The important objective of the National Education Policy 2020 is 'Higher education in Indian languages'. Before 2014, the level of higher education in the tribal community was very low, the main reason for which was the non-availability of higher education in the local language. After the formation of our government, special attention was paid to this problem and its result was clearly visible in the 'All India Survey of Higher Education', which proved that the gross enrollment ratio in the tribal community has increased by 47 percent in 2020-21 as compared to 2014. And there has been an increase of 63.4 percent among tribal women. We are confident that this Tribal University will further increase the Gross Enrollment Ratio figures by developing tribal languages and providing higher education in tribal local languages. Enrollment has increased by 21 percent since 2014-15 and women enrollment has increased by 28 percent. We are moving towards internationalization of higher education and there is talk of dual degree. Therefore, there should be collaboration with the tribal university as well as the foreign university, so that the students of other countries can know the Indian traditional

knowledge system and the children of our tribal community can also take the benefit of the foreign university.

SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA: I would like to bring to your kind attention that about 30 per cent of teaching vacancies in 45 Central Universities remain vacant. The number of vacancies become much higher, crossing over 10,000, when vacancies of IITs and IIMs are also included. This impedes the delivery of quality education, creating cutting-edge knowledge, innovative solutions and undermines India's academic competitiveness on a worldwide scale. Our suggestion to the hon'ble Minister is that infrastructure in higher education must be improved. Higher education institutions in India face significant issues in terms of lack of research input. This constraint limits their potential to function as dynamic hubs of innovation and intellectual advancement. The outdated curriculum needs to be improved; enrolment in higher education needs to be looked at and adequate fund allocation for R&D needs to be made.

***SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV:** I rise to support the Bill. It establishes a Central Tribal University named as 'Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University' in Telangana. Its territorial jurisdiction will extend to Telangana. It will provide avenues of higher education and research facilities primarily for the tribal population of India. During the tenure of Shri K. Chandrashekar Rao, ten percent reservation was given to the tribals. Funds should be allocated for research facilities. We request the Central Government to start the classes from this academic year. BRS Party demands that the other assurances made during the formation of Telangana also be fulfilled.

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: I support the Bill. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister not to politicise the Central Universities. The universities are the only hope for our youth. The Government should make use of these universities and give more skill development courses to these universities.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: We wholeheartedly support this Bill. The only issue I wish to highlight is the menace of temporary campuses. The institutions which had been promised to the State of Andhra Pradesh under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act have been established, but only in the temporary premises, which are not enough to expand the courses, or for undertaking any other activity in a full-fledged manner. Therefore, I request the hon'ble Education Minister to open up full-fledged and permanent campuses and then maintain the standards of the Central Universities.

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: The Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act had promised two universities, one for Telangana and one for Andhra Pradesh. We are currently discussing the Tribal University in Telangana. The Central Government has to take further steps with regard to Andhra Pradesh Tribal University also.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: I thank the Minister of Education for bringing forward the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which proposes to establish a tribal University in Telangana. Tribal people throughout India can avail the benefit of this university. The major objective of the university is higher education and research, which is very important. Now-a-days, universities are not concentrating on research aspect. The Government should look into this aspect also.

SHRI SADANAND SHET TANAWDE: The Bill is welcome as it seeks to establish a Central Tribal University in Telangana and will provide avenues of higher education and research facilities primarily for the tribal population of India. Over the past

* Spoke in Telugu.

many decades, the backlog to fill up the vacancies reserved for underprivileged has been increasing. This Bill will provide needed support to bring in more SCs and STs in higher education system and universities. I also support the Bill for it will help fulfil the regional aspirations and regional distinctiveness.

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS; AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI ARJUN MUNDA): This Bill seeks to establish a Tribal University to be known as Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University in the State of Telangana. There has been a lot of talk regarding the deprived, tribal and Dalit communities in the past, but their actual development has happened only during the time of the present Government. Today, representation of the tribal community is visible. Today, such schemes, programmes, and bills are being presented before us, through which it is clearly visible that in this 'Amrit Kaal' the Government wants to take along the people who were always left behind. Therefore, today India is setting a new record by moving from being the 10th largest economy in the world to becoming the 5th largest economy. Besides, we are strengthening higher education through central universities. Tribal communities of different tribal areas will receive different types of education in these universities for building multidimensional personality. The effort of the Government is to make the youth power emerge in the country and the tribal society get new opportunities.

DR. PRASHANTA NANDA: While supporting this Bill, I am proud to say that the curriculum of the University will be a game-changer for the tribal youth. However, there are a lot of vacancies in several universities. One Central University in my state has only one post of Professor filled and 42 are vacant. The future of the students studying in such universities is bleak. I request the Education Minister to look into this aspect also.

The Hon'ble Minister, replying to the debate, said: The Bill was discussed by many Hon'ble Members and supported by all. The Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act made a commitment for the establishment of Central Tribal Universities, one each in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Andhra Pradesh has got its tribal University and work from its campus has also started. But the Telangana Government delayed the allocation of land for a long time, hence its implementation also got delayed. However, after passing of this Bill in the House today and obtaining the Hon'ble President's assent to it, the entire process of opening the university will be completed soon. This university will move forward as a national institution and will undertake the responsibility of conducting special studies of tribal subjects of the country. Ultimately everyone has to come under the National Education Policy. West Bengal has also copied 99 percent of the National Education Policy. Perhaps there has been some change in the language. One more thing he said is that we rewrite history. We don't do that. After independence, some elements deliberately had become obsessed with a feudal mentality, as if the country belonged to them. Such symptoms are also seen in other States of the country. But the facts were not like that. Shri Narendra Modi ji has vowed to bring out all such hidden facts. Can the country forget the contribution of Sardar Patel ji? That is why the Hon'ble Prime Minister has glorified Sardar Patel by building the Statue of Unity. Just now my friend Arjun Munda ji was saying that 15th November is the birthday of Lord Birsa Munda. It has not been made now; it is part of history. Are we changing history? We said that "Tribal Pride Day" will be celebrated on 15th November. If anyone has any objection to this, what can we do? While discussing several topics, the topic came up that in the country especially children belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes drop out in higher educational institutions. We have conducted an analysis of the last five years. In the last five years, 1.53 percent of the General Category students, 1.51 percent of

Other Backward Classes, 1.47 percent of Scheduled Caste and 1.29 percent of Scheduled Tribe students who took admission in IITs have dropped out. While answering the question in the morning itself, I had said that many students get other options. In IIT, Chennai the reason for 44 students dropping out in the last ten years was that 60 percent of them had got admission in some other institute. But they were shown to be dropouts here. Out of 40 per cent, 30-35 per cent students dropped out due to various social, family and health reasons. It is not correct to say that the number of dropouts has increased during the tenure of this Government.

It is said that the number of students has decreased in higher education. The number of students in higher education in 2021-22 has increased by 26 percent compared to 2014-15. This is the achievement of this Government in higher education. The number of women has increased by 31 percent, Scheduled Caste students by 43 percent, Scheduled Caste girl students by 50 percent, Scheduled Tribe students by 65 percent and Scheduled Tribe girl students by 80 percent. The number of minority students has increased by 38 percent. The number of women in this figure is 42 percent. Several friends have said that during our Government, there exist vacancies in higher educational institutions. It is not true. Till 2018-19, the reservation policy for SC, ST and OBC did exist in higher educational institutions in the country, but giving reservation was not mandatory. Narendra Modi ji brought a law in 2019 under which it was decided that reservation for SC, ST and OBC as provided in the Constitution will be ensured in the appointment of professors in higher educational institutions. After 75 years of independence, this has happened for the first time. Except my home state Odisha, all the States have implemented OBC reservation. I want to present a comparative statement regarding the appointments. There have been 21,145 appointments in IITs, NITs, IIITs and IISERs in the last nine years compared to 9,113 appointments between 2005 and 2014. Especially, this Government is committed to the cause of SC, ST, OBC, and deprived sections. That is why the Prime Minister says that there are four castes in the country – women, youth, poor and farmers. In 2013-14, expenditure was 3.84 percent of GDP and today it has increased to 4.64 percent.

We have opened eight IIMs, seven new IITs, three new IISERs, 16 new IIITs, one new NIT and seven central universities in the last nine years. The Tribal University will not be for tribal students alone. There will be more study and research about tribal issues in it. I mentioned about the National Education Policy. For the first time in the country, schooling has been started from the age of three years. The team that framed the National Education Policy said that a child's development takes place between three to eight years. By this time 85 percent of the brain is developed. That is why for the first time in the country, Bal Vatika has been introduced under the National Education Policy. Research is being given importance in higher education. Today this House has discussed a lot about language. Earlier language used to be a subject of politics in our country. All Indian languages are national languages. This is the announcement of the Honorable Prime Minister. No language is inferior to any other. Similarly, Eklavya Vidyalayas have been started for education in other tribal languages. Language is a major priority of today's National Education Policy. I would, while expecting support for this Bill, like to put a point before you, Where are we reaching today, how are people seeing India and how are they seeing India's initiatives in education. How is the world looking at which is being ridiculed by some people, I will give the example of two countries. Yesterday, Mr. Ghulam Saheb presented me a book titled - 'Siyasat-e-Milli-Amozish' which means-'National Education Policy'. He told that they have translated our National Education Policy into Persian language. When I asked what his interest in this was, he told that you have said that you will give importance to multilingualism, and Persian language also

figures among the foreign languages you have mentioned. Today, Narendra Modi ji's vision of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', i.e. the vision of making world citizens, has reached so far! A few days ago, the Prime Minister of Mauritius requested me to send NCERT to Mauritius. His belief is that India's intellectual strength is due to the core knowledge base of NCERT. Therefore, they want a system exactly like NCERT in Mauritius. Today in the twenty-first century, India imagines that if a knowledge-based world is created, India will be its centre. Today the mood of the country has changed. This is the right time to present a new standard before the world and our Sammakka-Sarakka Central Tribal University is its symbol. I thank everyone for supporting this Bill.

The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted.

Clauses etc., were adopted.

The Bill was passed.

(ii) The Repealing and Amending Bill, 2023

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE; THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL), moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said: After Narendra Modi came to power, there has been a continuous process of repealing such acts which has no utility. There are a total of 76 such Acts in this Bill, for the repeal of which we have presented it before this august House. Some of these date back to pre-independence and some are also post-independence period.

SHRI G.V.L. NARASIMHA RAO: This Bill is in continuation of a series of pro-governance measures initiated by hon. Prime Minister ever since he became Prime Minister in May, 2014. As soon as he took over the reins of office, a two-member Committee was constituted to identify all Acts that have no relevance in today's context. Through the present Bill, we are, actually, seeking to repeal 76 such Central Acts which have no relevance or do not need to exist in the statute book.

SHRI MUZIBULLA KHAN: This Bill has been brought for the convenience of the common man and to improve the law and order system of the country. This Bill will ensure ease of living and ease of doing business. It fulfills the vision of 'minimum government, maximum governance' with the aim of repealing obsolete Acts. Periodic review clauses should be included in the law. There is a need for periodic review of the law and discussion about its efficacy and the nature of the problems. Some countries in Europe have a law review mechanism in which the law is reviewed from time to time in a specified manner. Nowhere in India does any organization regularly monitor whether the law reaches the ground level properly or not. I also want to say that there is a great need to reform the laws that are in place now and these laws still have problems. I want to say if the sooner justice be achieved, the sooner the decision be taken, it would be good for our country.

SHRI BEEDHA MASTHAN RAO YADAV: We have no objection to this Bill and welcome it wholeheartedly. It is a credit to this Government that they have brought in such widespread changes and sought to alter laws and regulations that have become obsolete. India is a dynamic nation, and our Constitution makers were aware of this when they laid down the fundamental principles, which would guide our nation; so, they allowed enough flexibility to make changes and ensured that no law could keep the people of India entrenched in the past. It severs any unnecessary ties to outdated draconian laws from the era of British rule and usher our country into a new era of liberation where we actualize

our dreams of becoming 'vishwa-guru'. While I wholeheartedly support the breath of the changes being made through this Bill, I would also like to highlight that Andhra Pradesh had requested for an Amendment to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014. Government should also consider it.

SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY: This Bill definitely, is a good measure which can lessen the burden on the judiciary and sharpen the bureaucracy and ultimately help the people, at large. There is the other side of the coin too. When a Bill is passed, the Bill gets effective only after the rules are made. There are so many Bills which have been passed, but the rules are pending. While the Government is reforming, the Parliament also needs to rise to the occasion and the Parliament has a bounden duty to realise its realism because the laws are made here. So, subordinate legislation is one area which needs our attention. Another most important aspect of any legislation is how to analyse the impact of it, which is known as Legislative Impact Assessment. There are two ways of looking at it. One is, before the Bill is introduced, the Government, definitely, puts it up in the public domain for its inputs and other is to know how effective the Bill after its passage is. Is there any impact assessment mechanism? World over, most of the developed countries do have this mechanism. The last thing is the international treaties these must be followed up with passing the relevant bill timely. Dynamism does not mean just removing outdated Bills, but dynamism means that you bring in legislation, which is beneficial to the people, and also before legislation and after legislation, you should involve the people. So, that is how the Bills, in letter and spirit, would be appreciated.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: The Act is a periodic measure taken by the Legislature to repeal the laws which are obsolete and ineffective. As we know, most of these Acts were enacted during the British period. Though we generally refer to the Indian Constitution, but some of the Acts enacted by the British are still in force. Repealing is done because some of the old laws are not necessary, and those old laws can be used to harass the people. As the hon. Member said, the laws are meant for the general public and for benefiting the democracy. If at all a law is not proving to be useful for the people, there is no meaning in having that law.

SHRI MAHESH JETHMALANI: This Bill is a formal Bill. It is basically a case of legal house cleaning. There was a need for some legal house cleaning, particularly since the previous Government had not undertaken this task and left many obsolete laws. In First Schedule, there are laws which are basically obsolete, and they are being repealed altogether. Many of the colonial laws, which date back to 1850 or 1855 and so on, have been removed from the statute books. They only over-burden our legal godowns and our statute books. They have outlived their time purpose, and their life is over but, unnecessarily, they are still on our statute books. So, these laws also have to go. The policy of Minimum Government, Maximum Governance is an act to further the absence of harassment to ordinary citizens. I support this Bill.

SHRI NARESH BANSAL: Regarding 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance' a campaign has been launched to remove the things that were there in the mentality of slavery before independence. The Government has been working since the beginning to eliminate the burden of many laws on the public. The laws that were made by the British were made so that they could rule over us and oppress us. They were not for any reform, but to strengthen their rule. 40 years old 'One Rank, One Pension' issue was solved. After 34 years, our education policy was changed, so that the coming generation can cooperate in the governance of the country as per the need of the country's self-respect. On the recommendation of a two-member commission, about 1,486 laws were repealed because they were a burden on us. For ease of doing business, many types of laws were

repealed, and GST was introduced, in which 17 laws were merged into 'one nation, one tax'. A lot of improvement work has also been done in the ease of living. The Government is working to ensure that there is minimal government interference in every area and that every person gets a convenient opportunity to discharge his responsibilities as a citizen of the country and as a dutiful citizen. There were many non-governmental organizations funded by foreign countries, which were associated with the forces trying to subvert the country. About 2 lakh shell companies, through which money laundering was done, were dissolved. The Government has done the work of repealing the Police Act, Evidence Act etc. prepared by the British and making a new law according to the self-respect of its citizens. We will make India a developed nation in the next 25 years by abolishing all the burdensome or useless laws of the country.

SHRI P. WILSON: It is better to have a sunset clause in all the Bills. Once a Bill is introduced and passed, it becomes an Act. But because of sunset clause, the Bill becomes defunct, and it amounts to repeal. Sunset clause in the Bills will help in saving a lot of time of this House and we can debate on the people's issues. A judicial impact assessment should be done before a Bill is introduced in the House. The Government should have consultation with the stakeholders, the judiciary, the advocates and the persons who are going to be affected by the Bill. When Government introduces a Bill and when it becomes an Act then it makes an impact on the judiciary and on the litigants. Imagine arbitration goes on for five years and the matter comes to the court. The court hears the matter and after another five years, the court is not empowered to modify an award and make it a decree. Sunset clause has been followed in foreign countries. This can be adopted, and Government could save time to concentrate more on the people's issues and other issues can be taken up for consideration. The social diversity is not there in the judiciary.

The Hon'ble Minister, replying to the debate, said: Laws which are no longer useful should be repealed. It is a general concept that a human being can die naturally but if there is an Act, it cannot die naturally. If it has to be repealed, then it will have to be brought in the Parliament. Every Bill has a number of the Act, the year of the Act is also mentioned, which Legislative Assembly has passed it. 1486 laws which were not needed have already been repealed. There were some Bills which had no need and served no purpose other than harassing the citizens. Some Acts are of the states, at some places the opinion of the states is also taken. Any trace of slavery should be freed from it. These laws are from the times of slavery. The sunset clause is under consideration of the Government and the sunset clause is being considered in consultation with the concerned ministry and department. There were some laws, which were tiring both themselves and the citizens. There should be social representation of all classes in the judiciary. If the work in the judiciary is done in simple language, then everyone will understand. I request unanimous passage of this Bill.

The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted.

Clauses etc. were adopted.

The Bill was passed.

INFORMATION TO THE HOUSE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, I had indicated to the House that I will come back to the House with respect to an update on the security-related incident. The

culprits have been apprehended. The matter is under investigation, and it will take its own course.

P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.

rssynop@sansad.nic.in