

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Tuesday, December 19, 2023/ Agrahayana 28, 1945 (Saka)

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, I am pleased to extend birthday greetings to hon. Member of Parliament, **Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari**, a prominent politician and Member of this august House since July, 2022. Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari has been a Member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly for six terms – last three being from the same constituency. He has been a distinguished Minister in the Government of Rajasthan for three terms, holding portfolios of Power, Education, Parliamentary Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies as also Law and Justice. When he was Minister of Power in 1998, I happened to be on the opposition side. As Minister of Education of Rajasthan, he was instrumental in providing free computer education then to Government school children which was duly recognized for empowering future generations. In his long and distinguished public life, Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari has proved himself to be a man of multifaceted talents. He is a lawyer by profession and agriculturist by passion. He has been conferred with UNESCO Confucius Award 2006. He was also conferred with Rashtriya Satyen Mitra Award in the field of literacy. Shri Ghanshyam Tiwari suffered jail during the Emergency for his political stance. He married to Smt. Pushpa Tiwari and the couple is blessed with sons Akhilesh, Ashish and daughter Richa. On my own and your behalf, I wish him a long, healthy and happy life.

OBSERVATION BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, first let me put on record that Members of this House are very enormously talented. I have said it at all fora, nationally and globally. When I look around, we have former Prime Ministers here. We have highest civilian awardees here. We have experienced people.

They are people whom the nation looks up to. I, therefore, made a very fervent plea that in this House we have to exemplify our conduct, which sends a very good message outside.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

* (i) The Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2023, as passed by the Lok Sabha; &

* (ii) The Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2023, as passed by the Lok Sabha

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY): I move that the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2023-24, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

I also move that the Bill to provide further appropriation of moneys out of the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the amounts spent on certain services during the financial year ended on 31st day of March, 2021, in excess of the amount granted for those services and for that year, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: I would like to congratulate the Government for managing this additional supplementary Budget remaining within the fiscal prudence norms. There are two more important allocations in this, most important being the fertilizer subsidy. I advice to the Government to use nano-fertilizer and organic fertilizer and to have a path in which the trajectory of dependence of subsidy on chemical fertilizers will decrease, and, will move towards a path which is much greener and much more climate-friendly. The food subsidy is another important subsidy. Considering that the people of India need this, I welcome it and I thank for extending it to the people who are not covered by the Food Security Act. I would still recommend that the future path would be to transition away to a millet-based subsidy scheme in which people use millets, and, we transfer funds to tribals. I support the Appropriation Bills.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: The majority of the spending proposed in these Bills is aimed towards the subsidies for food, fuel and fertilizers. This will ensure welfare of the poor, the needy and the farmers. I support these Bills.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: The flood has seriously affected the people of Tamil Nadu. I request the Government to sanction necessary funds to help the people of Tamil Nadu who are affected by floods.

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: I support these two Bills. The present debt of Andhra Pradesh Government is Rs. 11,28,992 crores. In view of this, I request the Union Government to come to the rescue of the State Government.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, the financial management of the country is going in a right direction, with the GDP growing at a rate of 7.7 per cent, which is unprecedented economic growth in our country.

SHRI LAHAR SINGH SIROYA: I support these Appropriation Bills.

SHRI GHANSHYAM TIWARI: I rise to speak in support of this Appropriation Bill. This Appropriation Bill has been brought for food, for MNREGA and for agriculture. This proves that the government is dedicated to the villages, the poor and the farmers.

SHRIMATI RAMILABEN BECHARBHAI BARA: Before 2014, villages were falling apart, people were moving towards cities. Today Modi ji's guarantee is reaching every poor person in the village and also provides benefits from the scheme. Therefore, I support this bill.

* Discussed together.

SHRIMATI SEEMA DWIVEDI: Our Government is working for every department. Today our country is progressing because of the policies of our Prime Minister. I request the House to support it unanimously. I support this bill.

DR. KALPANA SAINI: I rise to speak in support of the Bill. It is Modi's guarantee to bring the country's economy to third place.

SHRI ARUN SINGH: This Bill is mainly for the welfare of the poor. In this appropriation, the Government has also made a provision of Rs 20 thousand crore for MNREGA. Farmers should also get fertilizer at cheap prices.

The hon'ble Minister, replying to the debate, said: I have noted the suggestion given regarding urea. Hon. Member has raised the issue of floods in Tamil Nadu. In this regard, I would like to inform the House that the Government is providing appropriate assistance. I thank all my colleagues who participated in this discussion. The first batch of Demands for Supplementary Grants for the year 2023-24 comprises 79 demands and four appropriations. For this, authorization for gross additional expenditure of approximately Rs 1,29,000 crore is being sought. There is approximately Rs 58 thousand crores net cash in it. I request that the present demand for grants be returned to the Lok Sabha after consent.

The motions for consideration of the Bills were adopted.

Clauses etc. were adopted.

The Bills were returned.

(iii) The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2023, as passed by Lok Sabha

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS; AND THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS (SHRI HARDEEP SINGH PURI): I rise to move that the Bill further to amend the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act, 2011, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

SHRI BABURAM NISHAD: I support the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2023. I can say with conviction that this bill has been able to ensure development, rule of law, medicines and sanitation for the slum and hutment dwellers, laborers and all the people from all over the country who are living here. 38 projects have been approved for the rejuvenation of water bodies included under the mission within Delhi. This bill talks about extending the time limit of three years for the construction of slums here for the overall development of Delhi. I support this Bill.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK: This Bill proposes to extend the facilities which had earlier been provided to jhuggis and unauthorized colonies. This draws inspiration from a Peruvian economist, Mr. Hernando de Soto, who says that real empowerment can happen only when people are given property rights. And this has happened in this particular case. In Odisha, we have enacted the Jaga Mission in which we are also giving property rights to slum-dwellers and now it has covered almost all important slums in the entire State. What is more significant in this Bill is that there is a Master Plan for 2041. I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA: I rise in favour of this Bill. There have been various provisions in this Bill which are beneficial, especially to the downtrodden and a segment of society which needs it the most. There have been a number of schemes

consistently being enacted by the Central Government which helped them such as AMRUT Yojana, SBM(U) and so on. An amount of over Rs. 400 crores has already been released for construction of toilets under the water management and capacity-building measures. Also, the 216 urban homeless shelters have been sanctioned, most of which are functional. It was carried out under the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana -- the National Urban Livelihood Mission for catering to the needs of poor and downtrodden people during winter. Under the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana, a large number of vendors are provided with Certificate of Vending and Identity Cards. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has also been implemented for slum redevelopment and affordable housing. This Delhi administration and Central Government have made a good progress on the issue.

SHRI ANIL BALUNI: I support the Delhi National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2023 because the present Central Government is committed to the development and welfare of Delhi. Today, a remarkable work is being done under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, Amrit-1 and Amrit-2 Yojana, Swachh Bharat Mission and Prime Minister Street Vendor Self-reliant Fund (PM Swanidhi) Scheme. However, there is a state government working in Delhi which is continuously trying to cheat the people of Delhi. Today, an over-ambitious Chief Minister of Delhi is not thinking about the welfare and well-being of Delhi. The Delhi Government made a hollow claim of making de-composer spray for disposal of stubble and has spent crores of rupees on self promotion. This Bill will also serve the interests of countless Delhiites by regularizing the unauthorized colonies of Delhi. Therefore, I support this Bill.

DR. ANIL JAIN: I support the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2023. When the country became independent, the population of Delhi was around eight to ten lakhs, which has increased to 2.5 crores. But, there remained an utter lack of public facilities in this city. During this period, unauthorized colonies also came up. A promise was made to regularize them, but they were not regularized. The present Central Government first acted to authorize these colonies in the year 2019 and also issued a circular on March 8, 2022. Now, the action plan for development for the year 2041 is also going to come in Delhi. The deadline to protect the common people from punitive provisions is being extended to December 21, 2026. The people of Delhi and all the countrymen will directly benefit from this because it is the capital of the country and people from all over the country live here. Therefore, I also support this Bill.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: The hon'ble Minister has brought this Bill in this House to regularize and to help the slum dwellers of the city of Delhi. In the same way, our Leader, Perarignar Anna had brought the scheme to solve the slum dwellers in Chennai. Our successive leaders have taken a lot of steps to improve the conditions of slum dwellers. I hope, in the same way, the Central Government is making an effort. Hence, I urge the Central Government to help other State Capitals also, including Chennai.

SHRI RAKESH SINHA: I want to speak in support of this Bill. If the opposition had known the importance of this Bill, the situation in Delhi would not have been like this today. Seeing the seriousness of the situation, the Prime Minister of India established a self-reliant fund for poor street vendors. The Central Government has also taken up the task of regularizing more than 1,300 illegal colonies in Delhi, which will benefit 40 lakh poor people. These people were also cheated in the name of buying houses. Till now 20 thousand people have got ownership of their property and more than one lakh people have applied for the same. Despite ruling here, previous Governments had not paid attention to

these issues. The Delhi is the capital of our country. Today, it is being compared to Washington, Paris and Melbourne. Under the leadership of the Prime Minister, more than 28 lakh water connections have been given and more than 21 lakh sewer connections have been given. We want to make Delhi not only the Capital of the country but also prosperous like the most developed cities of the world. Today, the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi has done something which no one could not imagine for last 70 years.

SHRIMATI KANTA KARDAM: I would like to congratulate the Hon'ble Minister that he has brought this important Bill for the poor. Under this, many such projects are proposed, which will bring relief to the people of Delhi and the poor living here will benefit from it. Through this Bill, the houses and huts of those people, who come from outside Delhi city for business and work and are forced to live in unauthorized settlements, will also be regularized. A lot of development has been done from Delhi to Meerut also. The Delhi to Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor is 82.15 km long. The hon'ble Prime Minister inaugurated the 17 km long priority section from Sahibabad to Duhai in October, 2023.

The hon'ble Minister, replying to the debate, said: Delhi is an ancient city. The total land available in Delhi was the same in 1947 as it is today, while the population has gone up from seven or eight lakhs in 1947 to close to 2.5 crore today. The problems were visible even 20 years ago. The problem should have been addressed by the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, in 2006 or earlier, but it was not addressed. Hence, one-year legislation was coming in from 2006 to 2011. In 2011, again, the problem should have been addressed, but a Bill was brought to provide this protection for three years. A large number of people move from rural areas and tier-2 and tier-3 cities to Delhi. The city must be able to provide space for them and living habitation. These are informal settlements. But when people come looking for livelihood and they find space, they will have the tendency to settle down wherever they have space and something like jhugi jhopri and the JJ clusters come into being. In 2017, we learnt that the Delhi Government still needed another two years to complete the verification process. It is at that point of time that the hon'ble Prime Minister decided to bring in the legislation into Parliament. Therefore, in 2019, this legislation came. Under that, we have today, put in place a system which has identified the unauthorised colonies. Another reason why this extension is required for three years is that the Master Plan - 2041 is in the final stages and the Master Plan will require the agencies concerned, the DDA and the MCD, to be able to manage the changes which are coming in. Today we have registered four lakh households. There are about forty lakhs people living in these unauthorised colonies. The work and the identification is gaining pace and it will be our effort to do more. I thank the House for the support.

The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted.

Clauses etc. were adopted.

The Bill was passed.

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Secretary-General.

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