

RAJYA SABHA

*** SUPPLEMENT**

TO

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Friday, December 08, 2023/ Agrahayana 17, 1945 (Saka)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (amendment of Article 153 and substitution of Articles 155 and 156) - *Contd.*

SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: The proposed bill will not only affect Centre-State relations, but at the same time, these amendments will also weaken our country. If the centre becomes weak, our country will disintegrate. All the Governments and institutions in the country should operate in accordance with the Constitution and the responsibility to ensure this and deal any kind of violation lies with our central institution i.e. the Central Government. The Governor's job is to provide information to the Centre in this regard and to guide the states from time to time on the directions of the Central Government. Thus, the role of the Governor is very important. The Governor system is very important to maintain unity in a large area and to protect the interests of all. From the Ramayana period till the British rule, this system has continued in some form or the other. I disagree with the proposed amendment and oppose this Amendment Bill.

SHRI P. WILSON: When the Constitution came into force, the Constituent Assembly members thought that the Governor will be a guide, friend and a philosopher, that he would, actually, facilitate between the State and the Union. Therefore, the Governor was given the functions of Executive Powers, that is, to carry out the Business in his name; Legislative Powers, that is, to give assent to the Bills; and, Judicial Powers, that is, to grant remissions. Though the Governor is given these powers, the actual Head of the Government is the Chief Minister. The Governor has to act in accordance with the Constitution; he has to act under the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. But, they are completely ignoring the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers. They do not give assent to the Bills, they do not even act on the files or under the recommendations given by the Council of Ministers. The Governor has become a liability to any democratically elected Government. The House has to discuss and see that the post of the Governor is abolished.

SHRI BIPLAB KUMAR DEB: I oppose this Amendment Bill. This is against the federal system. The Chief Ministers of all the States say that the federal system should be made stronger. The link that makes the federal system strong is the Governor from the Central Government. The State cannot be allowed to run the government alone, because the State does not have a Defence department, the State does not have a Foreign Affairs

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department. There are many such departments which are with the Central Government. Therefore, there should be a link between the State Government and the Central Government, and the core of that link is the Governor. After our government came to power, we did not topple any government in an unconstitutional manner. The Governor has to work under the guidance of the hon'ble President. In this House, various Members have put forth their views on this Bill, but I believe that the Governor is very important because without the Governor, the chain of contact that the state has with the Central Government will be broken. India is such a big country that it has to be run under this system. Therefore, the system that Baba Saheb brought through the Constitution, has been amended from time to time, whenever a need was felt to bring about an amendment, but there is no need for this amendment brought before the House. Therefore, I strongly oppose it.

Discussion not concluded.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

1. Demand for Stoppage of 22439/22440 Vande Bharat Train at Pathankot Railway Station

MS. INDU BALA GOSWAMI: Vande Bharat Train passes through Pathankot while running to Katra from Delhi and back, but there is no stoppage at this station. Throughout the year a large number of people go to Jammu to visit Maa Vaishno Devi. After this, most of the people come to Devbhoomi Himachal Pradesh for religious tourism. Due to non-stoppage of Vande Bharat train at Pathankot Cantt station, religious places of Himachal Pradesh remain deprived from the tourists. The stoppage of Vande Bharat at Pathankot station will make it much easier for the common people to go to Katra and religious tourism will also definitely get a boost. I request the Government to kindly arrange for the stoppage of the Vande Bharat train at Pathankot Cantt station for at least 2 minutes.

2. Demand to Allow the Hyper or Hypo-pigmented Vitiligo Persons to Join Indian Army

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA: Vitiligo is an acquired de-pigmentation disorder affecting one to four per cent of the world population. It is not a lethal or infectious disease. According to the medical standards of the Indian Defence Service, a candidate is deemed medically fit when he has no hyper or hypo-pigmentation or any other disease of the skin. Therefore, people with Vitiligo find it difficult to join the Indian Defence Service. Consequently, many of them feel distressed and stigmatized by their condition. Such physically and mentally fit aspirants having all the potential to perform their duties towards the nation should not be stopped from becoming a soldier or officer. Hence, I humbly request the hon. Minister of Defence to look into this issue with the topmost priority and take necessary steps to regulate the medical standards of the Indian Defence Service.

(Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham, Dr. John Brittas, Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu and Dr. V. Sivadasan associated.)

3. Demand for Starting Domestic Flights from Meerut to various Cities by Expanding Airstrip under UDAN Scheme

SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR: The government connects various cities of the country with domestic air services through 'Udaan Yojana'. Meerut is a main city of

western Uttar Pradesh, which has its own historical importance. Meerut ranks second in the country as a hub of sporting goods. Meerut manufactured bat-balls are used for cricket all over the world. Most of the world's players come here to buy cricket equipment. Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, is about 550 kilometers from Meerut; High Court, Prayagraj about 760 kilometers; Vishwanath Temple of Varanasi is about 850 kilometers and Gorakhnath Dham Temple is about 800 kilometers. It takes 12 to 20 hours by train to reach all these places, due to which the passengers face a lot of problems. I urge the Government to expand Meerut's airstrip under 'Udaan Yojana' and start domestic air travel from Meerut to various cities of the country.

(Dr. John Brittas associated.)

4. Demand to Develop Cruise Tourism in Chennai

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU: Cruise tourism is emerging as one of the rapid growing segments of the leisure industry globally. The Indian tourism sector is providing major contribution to the Gross Domestic Product and Foreign Exchange Earnings as well as for providing employment. Chennai Port is one of the oldest ports in the country in the southern part of India. India's first international cruise was flagged off from Chennai to Sri Lanka in June, 2023. Cruise tourism holds huge opportunity for our maritime sector, and this cruise will further boost tourism, generate employment and strengthen the economy. The main aim of the Government is to develop Chennai as a cruise tourism hub. I urge the Government to ply Government-sponsored ferries at an affordable cost so that more and more tourist will experience cruise tourism in Chennai.

(Dr. V. Sivadasan, Dr. John Brittas, Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla and Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham associated.)

5. Revocation of Indian Passport in Goa

SHRI SADANAND SHET TANAWDE: The Regional Passport Office has recently revoked the passports of over 70 people due to the renewal of their Indian passports subsequent to registering their births in Portugal. The basis for this revocation by the Regional Passport Office in Goa is the birth registration in Portugal, considered as the effective date of acquiring citizenship. I urge the Government to reconsider the decision of revoking Indian passports solely based on the birth registration in Portugal. I request that Government should allow the renewal of Indian passports for the individuals before they acquire the official citizenship document from the Portuguese Government. The Government should facilitate their travel and ensure their well-being during the transition period. Also, the Government should expedite the process to grant them OCI cards after acquiring Portuguese citizenship.

6. Demand for Declaring Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi, Jharkhand, as Institute of National Importance on line of NIMHANS, Bengaluru

SHRIMATI MAHUA MAJI: This unique institute was set up in 1918 to offer treatment facilities for various mental ailments. These days, the mental ailments are spreading like never before in India and elsewhere. Hence, the significance of this institute can never be over emphasised. As per an estimate, over one Trillion Dollars loss occurred to our GDP during last 18 years. The Lancet report shows that every seventh Indian citizen was suffering from one or more mental ailments. The problems like Migraine, anxiety disorder, Bi-polar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Dementia are increasing rapidly. Therefore, this institute could prove a blessing for the people of the Jharkhand State as well as neighbouring North- Eastern states. I urge the Central Government to declare it an institute

of national importance like NIMHANS, Bangalore so that the affordable medical facilities can be provided to common people.

(Dr. John Brittas, Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham, Dr. V. Sivadasan, Shri Mohamed M. Abdulla and Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu associated.)

7. Demand for GI Tag for Desi Ghee from Auraiya, Uttar Pradesh

SHRIMATI GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA: Every district of Uttar Pradesh is famous for its unique product. This trend is further popularised by our hon'ble Chief Minister. He has already introduced "One District, One Product" scheme in the state. Given a rich tradition, the product selected for the district of Auraiya is its "*Desi Ghee*". Hence, I request the Central Government to provide a Geographical Indicator (GI) tag to promote this *Desi Ghee* at national and international level.

8. Demand for Capacity Building in Medical Services

LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.): With the hon'ble Prime Minister's call for "*One World, One Family and One Future*", it is our duty to provide health services to mankind. Besides meeting national demand, the skilled manpower earns massive foreign exchange and simultaneously creates employment opportunities. We already have 21 AIIMS and 706 medical colleges with paramedical colleges. However, to meet such a huge demand, the Government should further liberalise the licensing policies to permit the medical graduates to operate emergencies including C section after a one-year course in Surgery, Gynae and Anaesthesia, as was the practice before 1980. I also urge the Government that medical profession should be taken out of Consumer Protection Act and rural service should be incentivised more.

9. Need for Promotion of Self-Help Groups to develop places like Jabalpur, Mandla, Chhindwara, Pachmarhi etc. as Tourist Centres

SHRIMATI SUMITRA BALMIK: During the post COVID period, the tourism industry has been making a sound recovery. The state of Madhya Pradesh is no exception, in this regard. Madhya Pradesh is called the 'Heart of India'. We have a number of globally famous tourist sites like Bheraghat, Chausath Yogini Mandir, Bandhavgarh, Kanha and Khajuraho etc. I urge the Central Government to assist the Self-Help Groups being run by youths and women from the state. At the same time, more tourists sites like Jabalpur, Chhindwara and Panchmarhi should also be developed.

10. Rising Number of Cases of Road Accidents in India

DR. L. HANUMANTHAI AH: The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, and the National Crime Records Bureau are responsible to compile the information on road traffic accidents. In 2022, there were over 1.5 lakhs deaths due to negligence on roads. In comparison to 2019, it has shown an increase of over 10 percent. This trend is alarming and needs an immediate intervention. The majority of cases are attributed to human error and other factors get overlooked. The World Health Organisation categorized India's official data on road traffic fatalities as either 'unusable' or 'unavailable' due to 'quality issues' in their 2019 Global Health Estimates released in December, 2020. I would like to urge the Government to adopt revised methodologies for collecting road traffic accident data that align with international standards.

(Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham, Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu, Dr. V. Sivadasan, Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla and Dr. John Brittas associated)

11. Need to Prohibit setting up Coal Plants in Non-Coal Producing Areas

SHRI RAMCHANDER JANGRA: Increasing air pollution these days is a serious threat and challenge for the entire humanity, animals and birds. There are many reasons for air pollution, but the biggest factor is coal-based power plants. There was a time when power plants were installed in the middle of the load factor, like Bathinda, Panipat etc. so that power could be supplied all around, but after the expansion of the grid system across the country, this was no longer required, because power plants could be installed anywhere and by connecting it to the grid, electricity could be delivered to the appropriate places. I urge the Government that in future, coal based power plants should not be approved in non-coal producing states and a plan should also be made for the displacement of such plants which are already installed.

12. Demand to Start Instrument Landing System at MBB Airport, Agartala

SHRI BIPLAB KUMAR DEB: M.B.B. Airport, Agartala is an IFR (Instrument Flight Rules) airport, where aircraft approach, landing and take-off are guided through navigational visual aids and instrument landing aids. Instrument Landing System (ILS) is used as an aid for error-free landing, guiding the aircraft to land on the runway in normal and correct weather conditions. The work of new ILS installation at M.B.B. Airport, Agartala has been completed. This system will be made operational after the approval of DGCA. I request the Government to quickly grant DGCA approval in this direction, so that ILS can be started in MBB Airport, Agartala.

(Dr. John Brittas associated.)

13. Demand to Construct Hostels for Tribal Students

SHRIMATI RAMILABEN BECHARBHAI BARA: Children from remote villages at taluka level are traveling to get higher education, in which they face a lot of obstacles. Due to this many children are forced to leave their studies. To solve this problem of such children coming for education from far-flung villages, I request that a Government Samaras hostel should be started at every tribal taluka level with accommodation and food arrangements for these boys and girls. By having this hostel at Taluka and District level, our tribal children will get a lot of benefit. I request that to solve this problem, it would be most appropriate to get the hostel constructed soon.

(Shrimati S. Phangnon Konyak associated.)

P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.

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