

RAJYA SABHA

***SUPPLEMENT**

TO

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, December 04, 2024/ Agraayana 13, 1946 (Saka)

GOVERNMENT BILL - *Contd.*

The Boilers Bill, 2024 - *Contd.*

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL), replying to the debate, said: The Hon'ble Prime Minister has tried to change the old thinking in his every work. He talks about reform, perform and transform. The way the country has changed in 10 years with this basic mantra is in front of the whole country. The Prime Minister had said in the beginning that he would work three times harder in the third term. When we were celebrating *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* on 75 years of the country's independence, then Prime Minister Modi ji had put forth a thought before the country that on which values we have to change the country and take the country forward. In Amrit Kaal, he had given five vows to make the country a developed country, a prosperous country. The people of India should have all the happiness and prosperity, every child should get adequate opportunities, people's skills should be enhanced. Secondly, the vow is important in the context of this bill that we have to free the country from the slavery mentality of the country. After that, it came to mind that hundreds of such laws were still running this country, which were of pre-independence, British era and were running the affairs of this country. Keeping in mind that we should all work towards fulfilling the needs of the country in today's perspective, almost the entire Government is reconsidering the laws of pre-1947 and wherever required, they are being amended; wherever necessary, things are being simplified. The third vow was to be proud of our heritage. There should be development, and heritage should also be preserved. Under which today the country has started being proud of its heritage. Recently, five languages were given the status of classical languages. Through many such initiatives, this Government is working to focus on India's heritage. The fourth vow was - unity and solidarity of the country. Many members talked about federalism. When federalism becomes cooperative federalism, the country progresses with the cooperation of the Centre and the State. The fifth vow was that every person should fulfil his responsibilities and understand his duties. Along with using our rights, we should also fulfil our responsibilities towards the country. This bill was passed and implemented in 1923. It was amended once in 2007. We needed this Boiler Bill to make the country safe. Safe because it has security provisions. It mandates how educated people should inspect boilers. What should be the standards for that, who will be eligible, provisions have been kept in it to

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

determine this. A stands for Accountability. This bill has very clear provisions as to who will be accountable. It not only maintains a transparent regulatory mechanism, it also shows trust in the public and the industry. Prime Minister thinks that there should also be flexibility in it. Laws should not be made in such a way that they bind you in every thing. 'E' refers to the efficiency. Certification has been made easier and more democratized all over the country. Our effort is that industry can work with speed, precision and high productivity. Its suitability and relevance in the current times should be reflected in the Bill. While we wanted to deal with safety of life and property, we brought a fair balance so that life and property is protected, but for minor mistakes or minor misdemeanours, people should not be harassed. The Boilers Act of 1923 was comprehensively amended in 2007 by the Indian Boilers Amendment Act passed under the UPA regime. It was during that amendment that inspection and certification by independent third party inspecting authorities was introduced. It was during that amendment that the Central Government was given a number of powers that are today being questioned in this august House.

Now many Members here are suggesting why is the Central Government coming into play. Let the States have their own rules, their own regulations, their own qualifications. The makers of the Constitution recognized that this Act should be a part of the Central legislation rather than moving it to the States. But can you imagine each State in such a large country having separate laws and having separate guidelines and separate qualifications so much so that a person from Delhi then could not have possibly practiced as a qualified engineer in Noida or in Gurugram where he may be staying and working in Delhi. I even heard the word 'cooperative federalism' being raised, that our Government talks of cooperative federalism but we take away the right from the States. None of the rights has been taken away by today's law.

I think the whole House and the people of India know that in 2000 Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, introduced the bill in the Rajya Sabha. Using its wisdom, the Congress-led UPA government again introduced this bill in the House in 2007 and when this bill was introduced in the House, the Bharatiya Janata Party supported it and got it passed. In 2007, good provisions were introduced.

In 1972, a high powered Expert Committee was constituted. The Committee, in view of the rapid advances in technology related to the design, manufacture and use of boilers, which are a critical component in every manufacturing activity, recommended suitable amendments to bring the law in line with the requirements of changing times. It was a very good and noble objective. In 1972, a strong Government was in power. In 1974, the recommendations of this Committee were circulated to all State Governments. The Boilers Act, being a Concurrent subject as per the Constitution – which is why I referred to the Constitution – it had to have the approval of the State Governments.

In 1994, it was referred to the parliamentary Standing Committee. On 29th March, 1995, the Committee submitted its report and further modifications to the Indian Boilers (Amendment) Bill, 1994 were suggested which were accepted by the Cabinet by way of a Cabinet note. In the 2007 law, it was provisioned that there will be competent authorities and the inspection authorities will be independent. The competent engineers of our country, independent experts, will also be registered so that they can verify the boilers. An Hon'ble MP raised the question that by introducing this law you are compromising on safety. What will happen to the workers, what will happen to the public? This provision was brought in 2007. I think this third party inspection was a very good provision, that is why Atal ji also brought it. The definition of boiler was amended in 2007 at that time and baby boilers, which are small, were removed from this Indian Boiler Act. The definition of

accident was also completely amended that if minor accidents happen, there is a mistake in a small pin hole or something else, then it will not be considered, it will be seen as wear and tear. The provision of technical advisor was also brought at that time, but today it is being asked that why is the central government interfering in the territory of the state. We have not brought this because the technical advisor came in 2007 and he was appointed by the Central Government. All these are to complete the function of the Boiler Act.

Our government was accused of being so ruthless that if the technical advisor of the Central Government takes a decision and someone is dissatisfied with it, he will be forced to file a writ petition. It was also criticized that there was a provision of appeal to Chief Inspector. This right is that once the technical advisor has given his decision, after that you cannot resort to any legal tactics, it will be final. Order of the Central Government under Sections 20 and 20 A, or of the Chief Inspector, or of a Deputy Chief Inspector, or of an Inspector, shall be final and shall not be called in question in any court. This provision was brought in 1960. A member said that if MSMEs are decriminalized, people will not get justice. Small mistakes are committed by people running small businesses and small industries and then the bureaucracy harasses them. That is why it seems necessary to decriminalize it so that no one harasses them for small mistakes, they are not threatened with jail, and bureaucracy does not dominate. Self-certification has been kept so that there is some control. There is a need for synchronization of regulations across the country. The Boiler Act does this. The work of getting rid of the problems has been done by changing this law. An hon. MP said that Tamil Nadu has rules for boiler safety and its framework is also robust. The Government welcomes this, provided they are within the guidelines framed nationally. The Government welcomes every state liberalizing its rules. It will be good if we pass this unanimously and give a good message to the businessmen and industrialists of the country.

The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted.

Clauses etc., as amended, were adopted.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

1. Concern over Increasing Contempt Cases in the Country

DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL: I would like to draw special attention to the pending contempt cases against the Government in the courts and the lack of compliance. This is a serious issue, as contempt of court orders not only undermines the rule of law, but it is also injustice to the person who fights for justice for years. According to the reply given by the Government in the Lok Sabha, as of December 2022, there are 1,295 cases of contempt pending in the Supreme Court and more than 28,000 cases of contempt pending in all the High Courts of the country. About 70 percent of these contempt cases are pending against Government departments and officials. The 274th report of the Law Commission and the Supreme Court also have expressed deep concern several times over the increasing cases of contempt and their negative consequences. Therefore, I urge the Government to establish an effective compliance mechanism. This will not only maintain the dignity of the court but will also increase the confidence of the common citizens in the judicial system.

(Dr. Sasmit Patra, Dr. Fauzia Khan, Shri R. Girirajan, Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla and Shri Sant Balbir Singh associated.)

2. Demand for Measures to Safeguard the Rights of Employees in Corporate Sector

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM: I may bring to the attention of the House the untimely death of a 26-year-old Chartered Accountant, hailing from Kochi in Kerala. It is learnt that excessive workload adversely affected her health which led to this unfortunate incident. This unfortunate incident exposes the unhealthy and exploitative work culture in corporate sector. Moreover, job insecurity is created through threats of layoffs. In the backdrop of this unfortunate incident, I urge the Central Government to do the needful to fill the gaps in the existing provisions of labour laws so as to safeguard the rights of employees. I request the intervention of Government to ensure a safe working environment for the employees in the corporate sector.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

3. Concern over Increasing Cancer Cases in India

***SHRI SANT BALBIR SINGH:** Cancer is currently spreading rapidly in India. According to the report of the National Cancer Registry Program more than 1.4 million new cases were estimated in the year 2022. According to media reports, 4,109 people are getting infected with cancer every day in the country. Even in the healthy State of Punjab, the number of people falling victim to cancer has now reached 105 per person per day. Now Cancer has started affecting the lives of young children, animals and birds. The Government is providing financial assistance for the prevention of cancer, but it is insufficient because its treatment is very expensive. I strongly demand from the Central Government that complete treatment of cancer patients should be provided free of cost.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

4. Concern over Problems Faced by Farmers in Wheat Sowing due to Shortage of Fertilizers in the Country

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Potato crop has been sown, and farmers are sowing wheat crop, but farmers are not getting DAP, urea fertilizers in sufficient quantity in the market. At the same time, the fertilizers have run out with the self-reliant cooperative societies. The Government imports DAP, urea and NPK fertilizers from countries like China and Russia. During January to October, 2000, the import of DAP was 32.51 LMT, while during January to October, 2023 it was 52.33 LMT. The sea route from which fertilizers were to be imported to India is 6,500 kilometres long, due to which it takes a lot of time for fertilizers to reach Indian ports. I urge the government to make a time-bound program so that we can become self-sufficient in the field of fertilizers, so that the country's food producers do not have to face the problem of fertilizers.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

* Spoke in Punjabi.

5. Demand for Construction of elevated bridge near Budhauri Chowk in Sheikhpura District in Bihar

SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL: Sheikhpura district is known for its historical and cultural importance. But, the problem of traffic jam near Budhauri Chowk is affecting the development of this district. People are facing problems due to the narrowness of the main road near Budhauri Chowk in Sheikhpura. Thousands of small and big vehicles pass through this route to Devghar, the city of Baba Bholenath. I urge the Government to take appropriate steps to build an elevated bridge from this Budhauri Chowk to College Mor via Girihinda.

(Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla, Dr. V. Sivadasan, Dr. John Brittas and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)

6. Demand to withdraw the decision to disinvest Vizag Steel Plant

SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV MANDADI: The Government, citing loss incurred by the Vizag Steel Plant over the last few years, has taken the decision to disinvest, which is not in the interest of people and steel plant. There are no captive mines for the Vizag Steel Plant. Instead of opting for privatization, the Government must take efforts to supply required raw material to the Vizag Steel Plant. I urge the Government to withdraw its decision to disinvest the Vizag Steel Plant.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

7. Drinking Water Problem in Bengaluru City

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: Bengaluru city's population is 145 lakhs. Today 30 TMC of water is required to see that people should get sufficient drinking water. Once Bengaluru city was the city of lakes. So many lakes were there. Now, all have been destroyed. Unscrupulous people are today harassing the normal citizens for drinking water. Mekedatu dam is one of the problems which has been pending for long. I urge the Government to solve this problem.

(Dr. John Brittas and Dr. Sasmit Patra also associated.)

8. Demand for Optimizing Special Coaches for Targeted Groups in Indian Railways

DR. FAUZIA KHAN: The Indian Railways routinely introduces special coaches and trains, both on a permanent and temporary basis, to accommodate surging travel demands during peak periods such as festivals, pilgrimages, vacations, and examinations. While these measures aim to benefit specific targeted groups such as students, pilgrims and tourists, significant gaps in the reservation process hinder their effectiveness. The current 'first-come, first-served' reservation approach, compounded by complex booking procedures and limited awareness, frequently prevents intended beneficiaries from securing seats. The absence of targeted reservation quotas and streamlined group booking mechanisms often render these special coaches inaccessible to the very groups they aim to support. To address these challenges, the Indian Railways must adopt comprehensive reforms. Introducing reservation quotas for targeted groups, simplifying booking processes, and enhancing communication about schedules and eligibility criteria can make these services truly effective.

(Several Hon'ble Member Associated)

9. Urgent Need to Address Delay in Name Change of West Bengal

***SHRIMATI MAMATA THAKUR:** In 2016, the State Government had sent a proposal to the Home Ministry to change West Bengal's name to "Bengal" in English, "Bangla" in Bengali and "Bangal" in Hindi, but it was rejected by the Ministry advising us to use the name Bangla in all three languages. Therefore, on July 26, 2018. The Bengal Assembly unanimously passed a resolution to change the name of our State from West Bengal to Bangla. The demand to change West Bengal's name to Bangla is based on the sentiments of the people of the State, and our reverence towards our mother tongue. I demand that the Government should accept the proposal to change West Bengal's name to Bangla, immediately.

(Several Hon'ble Member Associated)

10. Demand for Construction of Overbridges/Underpasses on National Highways in Kerala

DR. V. SIVADASAN: There is a need to construct sufficient number of underpasses and overbridges to ensure smooth flow of traffic. Due to lack of overbridges and underpasses, pedestrians are finding it very difficult to cross the roads. Students, workers and common people who have to reach schools, hospitals, markets and places of worship on the other side of the roads are forced to travel many more kilometres. There has been repeated demands to construct overbridges at Embate, Pariayaram, Velapuram, Pappinissery, Nadal Railway gate, Mathrubhumi junction, Chala and other places. There is a need to urgently build sufficient number of overbridges at the required locations so that the fundamental right of the citizens to travel freely is upheld.

(Several Hon'ble Member Associated)

11. Demand for Compensation for Unorganized Workers through Quasi-judicial Mechanism

DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE: A large number of unorganized workers in our country are playing a vital role in economic development. These workers are engaged in various sectors such as construction, agriculture, services and domestic work and they have to frequently move between factories and states. The biggest problem of unorganized workers is that they often face unsafe working conditions. In case of accidents at the workplace, the families of these workers usually receive inadequate compensation from the factory owners. The main reason is that these workers are not aware of their legal rights, which prevents them from raising their voice for their rights. To improve this situation, I suggest that the government should direct the factory owners to compensate the unorganized workers through quasi-judicial mechanism. I suggest setting up quasi-judicial committees in every district. These committees will consist of worker representatives, factory owners and government officials, so that the voice of all parties is heard, and justice is ensured.

(Shri R. Girirajan, Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla, Dr. Sasmit Patra and Dr. Fauzia Khan also associated.)

12. Demand for purchase of Surplus Rice in Chhattisgarh.

SHRIMATI PHULO DEVI NETAM: A target has been set to purchase 160 lakh tonnes of paddy in Chhattisgarh this year. 108 lakh tonnes of rice will be produced from custom milling. Of this, 93 lakh tonnes is of central pool and 14.20 lakh tonnes of state

* Spoke in Bangla.

pool. The Government of India has permitted the purchase of only 70 lakh tonnes of custom milling rice under the Central Pool. In such a situation, the state will reduce the purchase of paddy. I request the government to purchase the surplus rice under the central pool, so that the paddy farmers can get relief.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

13. Concern over issues being faced by Migrant Students/ Aspirants in India

SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA: The coaching industry in India earns crores of rupees. However, this success conceals challenges such as exorbitant fees, inadequate teaching standards and lack of personalized attention. Aspiring students have to stay at private houses in Delhi and other Educational hubs like Kota, Allahabad, Pune and Indore, often plagued by poor sanitation and inadequate safety measures. Substandard food, unhygienic kitchens and irregular meal timings further compromise students' physical and mental wellbeing. To address these issues, Government's intervention is crucial. Regulations for hostels and coaching centres, enforced through safety audits and holistic guidelines, can improve living standards and meal quality. Specially designated zones for educational institutions could include rent ceilings and other controls to ensure affordability and accountability. A 24x7 helpline for student grievances would provide timely redressal and support. Such measures would safeguard the wellbeing of the students and address the challenges of coaching industry.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

14. Demand for Overall Development of Persons with Disabilities

SHRI SANJAY SETH: Our Government had brought Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 for the development of persons with disabilities, but its implementation on the ground has not been completed yet. The statistics of accessibility for persons with disabilities in public buildings and public transport are worrying. Therefore, it is important that this class is connected to the mainstream of development, and they are given adequate opportunities. Accessible transportation is a major issue, due to lack of which our physically disable brothers and sisters face problems in education and employment. I request the Government to make the entire transport infrastructure accessible in a time bound manner. We have to bring every bus stop, every railway station, every metro station to the standards of universal accessibility. Transport accessibility is not just a facility, but it is a door to the overall development of our physically disable citizens, which will empower them along with giving them economic independence. I demand from the Government that attention should be paid to this.

(Dr. John Brittas, Dr. Fauzia Khan, Dr. Sasmit Patra, Shri R. Girirajan and Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla associated.)

15. Demand for Special Category Status for Odisha

DR. SASMIT PATRA: Odisha has suffered many natural disasters. Cyclones such as the 1999 Super Cyclone, Phailin, Hudhud, Titli, Fani, Bulbul, Amphan, Yaas, Gulab, Jawad, Michaung to the recent Dana have cumulatively caused massive economic losses to Odisha. Floods and deficit rains have aggravated those financial losses which have had an adverse impact on the lives and livelihood of people of Odisha apart from destruction of thousands of crores of rupees worth public infrastructure such as roads, bridges, etc., due to cyclones and floods. Therefore, it is important that losses from such natural disasters be

compensated to Odisha by providing Special Category State Status. urge the Government of India to provide Special Category State Status expeditiously.

(Dr. John Brittas, Shri R. Girirajan and Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla associated.)

16. Urgent Need for Affordable and Enhanced Cancer Screening Facilities at District Level

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: A study published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research estimated that one in nine people in India is likely to develop cancer in their lifetime. This alarming statistic underscores the urgency of implementing effective cancer screening and early detection measures. A report by Mercer Studies highlights that between 30 per cent and 50 per cent of cancer deaths could be preventable through early detection and timely treatment. This significant potential for prevention emphasizes the importance of establishing comprehensive screening programs throughout our country. I propose implementation of cancer screening facilities at the district level. This can be achieved through Cancer Screening Facility Centre; Mobile Cancer Screening Units; deploying mobile units equipped with diagnostic tools to reach remote and underserved population, ensuring that no one is left behind. I urge the Government of India for establishment of a robust cancer screening facilities across the country that can make significant strides towards combating this deadly disease.

(Several hon'ble Members associated)

17. Demand for Connecting Entire Area of Dehradun with Rail Service

SHRI MAHENDRA BHATT: I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems being faced by the people due to lack of railway facilities in the entire area of Dehradun district of Uttarakhand. Dehradun to Rishikesh and a large area of Dehradun, Pachhuvadoon, which includes Vikasnagar (Dakpatthar), are still deprived of railway service. Therefore, I demand from the Government that a new railway line be laid between Saharanpur to Vikasnagar, Dehradun and Rishikesh.

(Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla and Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)

18. Demand for Making Law to Ban Use of Social Media by Children below 16 Years of Age

SHRI NEERAJ DANGI: The growing addiction of children to smartphones and social media has become a serious problem today. Recently, the Australian government has banned the use of social media by children under the age of 16. This is an exemplary step, and this decision is being widely welcomed globally. In a country like India, where the influence of social media is increasing rapidly, it is necessary that the Government takes concrete steps to protect children. Holding social media platforms and tech companies responsible can be an important initiative.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

19. Concerns over Road Accidents in India

SHRI BRIJ LAL: In the year 2022, lakhs of people died, and a large number of people injured in road accidents. India accounts for nearly 14 per cent of global deaths due to road accidents. Over speeding and careless driving, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, Vehicle was hit from behind and hit and run cases are the main accidents that occur. Most accidents and fatalities were caused by two wheelers. Two-wheeler riders are most vulnerable, the share of pedestrians has, however, more than

doubled in the last 6 years. I request the Government to immediately address this situation and take suitable remedial measures.

(Dr. Fauzia Khan, Dr. Sasmit Patra and Shri R. Girirajan associated)

20. Demand for Awarding Bharat Ratna to Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Bhagat Singh ji

SHRI RAGHAV CHADDHA: Revolutionary Bhagat Singh's contribution to the country's freedom is huge. But even after 93 years of his martyrdom, he has not been awarded the 'Bharat Ratna'. Today I demand from the government that the country's pride and glory Bhagat Singh be awarded the 'Bharat Ratna'. If this happens, then the glory of 'Bharat Ratna' will increase, not just of Bhagat Singh.

(Several hon'ble Members associated)

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Secretary-General.

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