

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Friday, February 06, 2026/ Magha 17, 1947 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

1. Need to Curb Ultra-processed Foods to Protect Children's Health and Build a Strong Foundation for a Developed India

SHRI SUBHASH BARALA: Food in Indian civilisation has always been a source of nutrition, balance and culture, not merely consumption. Traditional diets with pulses, curd, buttermilk and millets kept generations healthy. Today, children are increasingly addicted to ultra-processed, sugary and salty packaged foods, leading to malnutrition despite full meals, and a rapid rise in obesity and diabetes. Ultra-processed foods are low in nutrition and high in sugar, salt and unhealthy fats, and are aggressively marketed to create addiction among children. This threatens not only children's health but also the foundation of a developed India. Therefore, I urge the Government to ban child-targeted advertisements, mandate clear warning labels, promote traditional foods and millets in schools and anganwadis, and strengthen the Eat Right India and Millets Mission.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

2. Concern over Rising Cyber Frauds Targeting Tourists in Goa and other Tourist Destinations

SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE: I raise this issue because cyber frauds targeting tourists in Goa and other destinations are increasing at an alarming rate. As Goa has emerged as a major tourist hub and digital nomad destination, fake hotel bookings, fraudulent websites and digital payment scams have become widespread, causing serious financial losses to tourists. I believe advisories alone are not sufficient, as organised gangs repeatedly resurface using fake websites, virtual numbers and anonymous platforms. This affects tourist safety, causes losses running into hundreds of crores and damages India's global image. Therefore, I urge the Government to mandate KYC for tourism websites, block unverified platforms and ensure real-time monitoring and swift take down.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

3. Need for strengthening Road Safety Infrastructure for Persons with Disabilities

SHRIMATI SANGEETA YADAV: Accessible footpaths are not only a right of persons with disabilities but also the foundation of safe and sustainable cities. Despite the Accessible India Campaign, last-mile connectivity remains a serious challenge. Audits show that 95 per cent of urban roads still have obstacles, forcing wheelchair users to risk their lives crossing main roads. I also wish to highlight that exclusion of persons with disabilities from the workforce causes an annual loss of about Rs.17.9 lakh crore, and over 35,000 pedestrians died in 2023. The absence of disability-specific data in accident records is alarming. Therefore, I demand a separate disability column in road accident data and strict enforcement of the 2021 accessibility standards.

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

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

4. Demand for 45-Day Paid Elderly Wellness Leave to Support India's Senior Citizens

SHRIMATI SUMITRA BALMIK: Our culture places parents on the highest pedestal, yet today the 'sandwich generation' struggles between professional duties and caring for elderly parents. India already has over 14.9 crore senior citizens in 2026, and this will exceed 23 crore by 2036. Urbanisation and employment have forced many youth to live away from their parents. Physical presence of children is essential for elderly care and for the success of the silver economy. Therefore, I urge the Government to introduce a 45-day paid Elderly Wellness Leave, on the lines of maternity and paternity leave, in both public and private sectors for parents above 60 years suffering from serious illness.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Concern over the Inadequate Conservation of National Heritage Sites in the Country

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I raise this issue because despite repeated assurances on heritage conservation, cultural sites are being damaged. The demolition of Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar's statue and temples at Manikarnika Ghat in Varanasi is deeply unfortunate. Kashi is one of India's most precious cultural heritages. I wish to recall that Ahilyabai Holkar rebuilt and restored numerous temples, ghats, wells and dharamshalas, acknowledged by scholars like Annie Besant, Govind Sakharam and Pandit Nehru. Therefore, I demand that the Government show seriousness and sensitivity in conserving national heritage.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

6. Concern over the Menace of Stray Animals in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR: I raise the serious issue of stray cattle in Uttar Pradesh. As an agriculture-based state, farmers are suffering heavy crop losses due to stray animals. This problem now affects road safety as well, with frequent accidents on highways causing loss of innocent lives. Despite commendable initiatives under the leadership of the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister through gaushalas and financial support, the problem persists at the ground level. Cow dung is an important organic fertilizer that can reduce chemical fertilizer use, but it is being wasted. I urge the Government to ensure permanent appointment of caretakers in gaushalas and timely payment of wages so that this issue, linked to rural society and agriculture, can be effectively resolved.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

7. Need for Enhancement of Air Connectivity and Flight Operations at Belagavi Airport in Karnataka

SHRI IRANNA KADADI: I wish to draw the attention of the House to Belagavi Airport, located in Karnataka's second capital and at the tri-junction of three States. Belagavi is an important defence, educational, medical and industrial hub, and the Central Government is expanding airport infrastructure. Under the UDAN-3 scheme, Belagavi was connected to 13 cities, but currently only two airlines operate flights to five cities. Passenger traffic increased by nearly 9 per cent in 2024-25, yet flight services are being withdrawn. Even after subsidy withdrawal, routes such as Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad recorded load factors of 85-95 per cent. Despite this demand, services were discontinued. I urge the Government and the Ministry of Civil Aviation to intervene and restore key flight connections.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

8. Demand for Construction of Flyover or Underground passage to Protect Elephant and Wildlife Corridors in the Foothill Areas of North Bengal

SHRI NAGENDRA RAY: I bring to the notice of the House the critical elephant corridor stretching from Alipurduar to Siliguri in North Bengal. This region has historically served as a major movement route for elephants and includes several national parks and wildlife sanctuaries. Due to railway lines, national highways and other developmental activities, elephants and wildlife are being

killed repeatedly, violating the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. Since 2004, 41 elephants have died in this corridor. I request the Union Government to construct flyovers or underpasses for human movement so that elephants and other wildlife can move freely and safely.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Need for Reduction of Interest Rates on Power Finance Corporation PFC and REC Loans to Alleviate Financial Stress on TANGEDCO

SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN: I draw the attention of the House to the financial stress faced by Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation (TANGEDCO), which manages power generation and distribution in Tamil Nadu with an installed capacity exceeding 45,000 MW. High interest rates ranging from 9.5 to 12.65 per cent on loans from PFC and REC compel TANGEDCO to pay nearly Rs. 7,000 crore annually as interest. The State Government has requested a reduction to 8 per cent. I urge the Union Government to reduce interest rates by at least 1.5 per cent and introduce a debt restructuring scheme to strengthen TANGEDCO's financial health.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

10. Need for Continuity of Life-saving Treatment for Patients with Lysosomal Storage Disorders

DR. ANIL SUKHDEORAO BONDE: I appreciate the National Policy for Rare Diseases introduced in 2021, under which Centres of Excellence have been established and financial assistance of up to Rs. 50 lakh is provided to patients with Lysosomal Storage Disorders. Enzyme replacement therapy is a life-saving and lifelong treatment. However, once the financial limit is exhausted, treatment is discontinued, leading to relapse and serious risk to patients' lives. I urge the Government to amend the policy to ensure uninterrupted treatment for such patients.

At present, once the cap of fifty lakh rupees is exhausted, enzyme replacement therapy is discontinued. This leads to a relapse of the disease in children and poses a serious threat to their lives, even though a portion of the allocated funds remains unutilized. Therefore, I urge the Government to ensure lifelong enzyme replacement therapy for these children and to remove the cap of fifty lakh rupees. I also request that, through a portal providing for CSR or core funding, thousands of such children be registered and assured long-term, uninterrupted treatment. I further submit that clear guidelines and standard operating procedures should be issued to ensure the timely and continuous utilization of the funds provided to the Centres of Excellence, so that children coming from remote areas can receive treatment on time and no child's life is lost.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

11. Demand for Establishment of Assembly Units of Electronic/Electrical Garments PSU in Manipur

SHRI MAHARAJA SANAJAOBA LEISHEMBA: I wish to draw attention to the fact that Manipur is a small, landlocked State with a population of a little over 30 lakh and presently lacks any major industrial corporate presence. Only a limited number of small and very few medium enterprises are functioning in the State. According to the latest Census, Manipur has a literacy rate of 76.94 per cent, yet its unemployment rate during 2022–23 stood at 4.7 per cent, which is significantly higher than the national average of 3.2 per cent. This reflects a serious problem of unemployment, particularly among educated youth in the productive age group, despite the availability of a large pool of skilled young people with degrees and diplomas in electronics, electrical, computer and other engineering disciplines. To address this issue, I urge the Union Government to establish Public Sector Undertaking assembly units in the electronics, electrical and ready-made garments sectors in the State. Such initiatives, including the manufacture of small electronic and computer components, would generate employment, strengthen the State's economy, prevent youth from falling into drug abuse, and actively involve them in nation-building.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

12. Concern over Shortage of Qualified Special Needs Educators and its Impact on Inclusive Education in the Country

SHRIMATI JAYA AMITABH BACHCHAN: I wish to draw the attention of this House to the serious shortage of qualified special educators in the country, which poses a major challenge to inclusive education for children with disabilities. Nearly 50 per cent of children with learning disabilities drop out before completing Class 10, reflecting the urgent need for better support systems in schools. At present, there is only one registered special educator for every 18 to 20 students with special needs, whereas WHO guidelines recommend five to six trained teachers for every 20 students. A major concern is the lack of early identification and support for dyslexia, which affects nearly 10 to 15 per cent of India's school-going children. Untreated dyslexia is often misunderstood as low intelligence, leading to frustration, low self-esteem and higher dropout rates, despite the fact that many such children have strong creative and entrepreneurial abilities. I therefore urge the Government to prioritize WHO-aligned teacher training, early screening mechanisms and adequate infrastructure to provide tailored support, unlock the potential of these children, improve literacy outcomes and enhance long-term economic productivity.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

13. Concern over Repeated ONGC Blowouts and Industrial Safety Failures in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District, Andhra Pradesh

SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE PILLI: I wish to draw the attention of the Petroleum Ministry to the serious concerns arising from oil and gas exploration activities being carried out by ONGC in Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema District of Andhra Pradesh. Recently, a blowout incident occurred at an ONGC well in Irusumanda village, leading to an uncontrolled release of gas and oil, which created fear and distress among the local residents. Although ONGC activated its Crisis Management Team and senior technical experts to contain the situation, such incidents are not isolated. Konaseema district has witnessed multiple blowouts and major industrial accidents over the past three decades, including the Pasarlapudi blowout in 1995, Devarapalli in 1997, Tandavapalli in 2005, the Nagaram gas pipeline explosion in 2014, the Uppudi blowout in 2020, and the recent hydrogen sulfide gas leak at Kesanapalli in 2025. These repeated incidents indicate persistent safety and environmental risks in the region. The people of Konaseema are facing severe problems due to these blowouts. Agricultural lands near gas wells are subsiding, coastal areas are being adversely affected, and livelihoods are under threat. Despite continuous operations by ONGC and GAIL, local educated youth are not being provided adequate employment opportunities, and even benefits such as cooking gas schemes are reportedly not reaching many residents. In view of the Irusumanda incident and past occurrences, I urge the Petroleum Ministry to take necessary action to provide immediate and enhanced financial assistance to the affected farmers. These measures should aim to ensure effective control of blowouts, protection of residents, restoration of normalcy, and proper assessment and mitigation of the long-term impacts on local communities and agriculture.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

14. Proposal for Introduction of Corporate Research Responsibility (CRR) in Companies Act

SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: I rise to emphasize the urgent need to strengthen corporate support for research and innovation in our country. Under Section 135 of the Companies Act, about 27,000 companies currently contribute over ₹34,000 crore towards CSR activities such as education, healthcare, skilling and rural development, demonstrating how well-aligned legislation can serve national priorities. While I commend the Government for enacting the Anusandhan National Research Foundation Act, 2023 and for budgetary support to research, India still spends only about 0.7 per cent of its GDP on R&D, far below global benchmarks. More concerning is that only 36 per cent of this limited R&D expenditure comes from the private sector, unlike developed economies where private contribution is 70–80 per cent. Therefore, I propose the introduction of a new Section 135A—Corporate Research Responsibility—in the Companies Act. Under this, companies meeting existing CSR thresholds could contribute one per cent of their average net profits towards designated research

activities, replicating the success of the CSR model and strengthening India's innovation ecosystem. I urge the Government to consider this proposal in the national interest.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

15. Concern over Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Guidelines in Hilly Region

SHRI DORJEE TSHERING LEPCHA: I wish to highlight that the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has significantly improved all-weather road connectivity in rural Sikkim, enhancing access to healthcare, education, markets and livelihoods. However, many genuinely remote villages remain unconnected due to rigid population criteria. Given Sikkim's mountainous terrain, scattered habitations, heavy monsoons and strategic borders with China, Bhutan and Nepal, road connectivity is essential not only for development but also for national security. I, therefore, request that the population threshold for PMGSY eligibility be reduced from 250 to 150 to ensure equitable coverage. I also draw attention to the rapid deterioration of PMGSY roads after seven years because of heavy rainfall. The existing 20 mm thin carpeting is inadequate for intense monsoon conditions, leading to early damage. I urge timely upgradation with thicker, higher-specification layers and adequate protection works such as retaining walls, drainage and slope-stabilisation measures. These steps will improve durability, reduce maintenance and ensure reliable connectivity in vulnerable Himalayan regions.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

16. Demand to Protect and Commemorate the Site of Derailment of a Military Special Train at Panikhaiti (Assam) during the Quit India Movement

***SHRI AJIT KUMAR BHUYAN:** I recall that the final phase of India's freedom struggle took shape with the Quit India Movement of 1942. After leaders across the country were imprisoned, the movement transformed into a powerful mass uprising in which ordinary Indians actively participated. The demand was clear: the British must leave India, and the people would no longer support fascism or wartime military cooperation during World War II. In Assam, as elsewhere, protesters burned bridges and government offices and disrupted army supplies, which led to brutal and inhuman atrocities by the army and police against civilians. In response to these excesses, Congress volunteers took an extreme and courageous decision—to derail trains carrying soldiers as a form of resistance. I recount how Congress leaders and workers from Nagaon chose a location near Guwahati, at Nalghuli between Panbari and Panikhaiti stations, to carry out this plan. The mission was led by Mahadananda Devgoswami of Mayong, along with ten dedicated freedom fighters from different parts of Nagaon. On the evening of 24 November 1942, they derailed a special train carrying hundreds of British-American soldiers to Dimapur, plunging it into the Digaru River. Though this was a remarkable episode of the independence movement, it remains largely absent from Indian history books, surviving mainly in local memory and in Dr. Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya's novel *Mrityunjaya*, which preserves this forgotten sacrifice.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

17. Need for regulation of social media to prevent spread of rumours and ensure accountability

SHRI RAJIV SHUKLA: I wish to draw the attention of this House to the serious problem of growing lack of accountability on social media, which is deeply affecting society, democracy, the mental health of our youth, and public trust. Today, anyone can make false allegations on social media without any responsibility, and once something goes viral, it becomes almost impossible to undo the damage caused. Neither the platforms take responsibility nor do those spreading misinformation come forward, while an ordinary citizen suffers mental, social, and professional harm. The recent tragic incident in Ghaziabad, where minor girls died by suicide, has made it clear how rumours, exaggerated content, and digital pressure circulating on social media can have a devastating

* Spoke in Assamese.

impact on the mental health of children and adolescents. The question is: who is responsible in such cases—are not the platforms, whose algorithms promote such content, also accountable? I urge the Government to formulate a clear and balanced policy for social media that protects freedom of expression while also fixing accountability for those who spread misinformation and for the platforms themselves. Transparency in content moderation, a strong grievance redressal mechanism, and robust digital safety measures for Indian users must be ensured. Social media has today become a powerful medium for shaping public opinion; therefore, its accountability is not merely a technical issue, but a democratic necessity.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

18. Demand to Integrate Foot Reflexology Studies under the AYUSH Framework

SHRIMATI SUDHA MURTY: I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on foot reflexology, a subject that is often neglected but offers significant health benefits. By stimulating sensitive points in the feet, pain can be reduced, relaxation improved, and stress effectively managed through non-invasive means. This practice is widely followed in South-East Asian countries and is comparable to our own traditional Indian massage therapies, which are globally respected. The Ministry of AYUSH is known for promoting natural, time-tested, and traditional systems of treatment and foot reflexology fits well within this framework. It is particularly beneficial for elderly people and patients suffering from diabetes, who require special foot care and early intervention. I strongly urge that foot reflexology be introduced in AYUSH hospitals with proper training, safety standards and scientific understanding so that people may benefit from pain-relief therapies and improved awareness of preventive healthcare.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

19. Demand for Introduction of a Premium Train Service Between Pune and Delhi

DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI: I express my gratitude to the House for giving me the opportunity to raise, during Zero Hour, the issue of introducing a premium train service between Pune and Delhi. Pune is a highly important city, known as the *Oxford of the East*, and is a major centre for education, information technology, industry, start-ups, automobiles and the defence sector. With the proposed Defence Corridor, its strategic importance is increasing further. Thousands of students, professionals, entrepreneurs and government officials travel regularly between Pune and Delhi. Despite this, there is no direct, fast and premium-category rail service connecting Pune with the national capital. At present, trains take nearly 20 to 30 hours, and passengers face overcrowding, uncertainty and limited facilities. I urge the government to start a premium train service like the Rajdhani Express, Vande Bharat Sleeper, or Tejas between Pune and the national capital Delhi as soon as possible, so that an important city like Pune is not deprived of better rail connectivity.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

20. Need for All-weather Connectivity to Pangri Valley through the Chamba-Killar-Leh corridor

SHRI HARSH MAHAJAN: I draw the attention of this House to the Pangri Valley region in Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh and the urgent need to develop the Chamba–Killar–Leh corridor as an all-weather route. Pangri Valley is a tribal-dominated area with over 25,000 citizens who remain cut off from the rest of the country for nearly eight months each year due to poor connectivity, severely affecting access to healthcare, education, and essential services. Developing the Chamba–Killar road along with the proposed Chaini Pass Tunnel will end this isolation and also unlock significant tourism and economic potential in this scenic region. This corridor holds immense strategic importance, as it would become the shortest route to Leh, reduce travel distances substantially, provide an alternative to the Manali–Leh axis and strengthen defence logistics and emergency response near sensitive border areas. I urge the Government to declare the Chamba–Killar–Leh corridor a strategic defence route and entrust its development to the Border Roads Organisation so that tribal welfare, regional development and national security are advanced together.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

21. Need to Review Ethanol Supply Cuts by Oil Marketing Companies in Bihar to Ensure Contract Continuity and Policy Stability

DR. BHIM SINGH: I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an important issue related to ethanol production units established in Bihar. The country has made historic progress in achieving energy security, environmental protection and increased farmers' income through the Ethanol Blending Programme. This programme has become a strong foundation for 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and a 'Green Economy'. However, it is concerning that Oil Marketing Companies have reduced supply orders from ethanol units in Bihar by 50%. As a result, production in these plants has been halved, making operations unprofitable and pushing them to the verge of closure. Employees are being laid off, which may increase unemployment. Bihar has immense potential for maize-based ethanol production, which can provide farmers with assured markets and boost the rural economy. I urge the Government to review these supply cuts and ensure policy stability and continuity so that ethanol units in Bihar can operate sustainably.

(Dr. Sasmit Patra associated.)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

The followings bills were introduced:

1. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (Amendment) Bill, 2024
2. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (*Amendment of Articles 243D and 243T*)
3. The Census (Amendment) Bill, 2025
4. The Airline Passengers' Rights Bill, 2024
5. The Employees' Wellbeing Bill, 2025
6. The Regulation of Animal Breeding Bill, 2025
7. The National Commission for Fishermen (Welfare and Support) Bill, 2025
8. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (*Amendment of Section 2 and Insertion of New Chapter VIIB*)
9. The Environment (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2025
10. The Educational Consultancies Regulation Bill, 2025
11. The Right to Disconnect Bill, 2025
12. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2025
13. The Small Claims Court Bill, 2025
14. The Persons with Rare and Life-Threatening Diseases (Financial Support and Medical Entitlement) Bill, 2025
15. The Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2025
16. The Kisan Jeevan Suraksha Evam Durghatna Pratipurti Vidheyak, 2025
17. The Pravasi Bharatiya Kaushal Evam Pratibha Prerak Vidheyak, 2025
18. The National Ranking and Accreditation Authority for Higher Educational Institutions Bill, 2025

19. The National Commission for Women (Amendment) Bill, 2025
20. The Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2026
21. The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (Amendment) Bill, 2026
22. The Online Matrimonial and Dating Services (Promotion and Regulation) Bill, 2026
23. The Medical Gases (Quality, Safety and Regulation) Bill, 2026
24. The Delivery Platforms (Verification of Antecedents of Delivery Personnel) Bill, 2026
25. The Artificial Intelligence (Human Health and Medical Education) Regulation Bill, 2026
26. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (*Amendment of Articles 15, 16, 124, 217, 224 and Seventh Schedule and Substitution of Article 130*)
27. The Virtual Court Proceedings Bill, 2026
28. The Temple Autonomy, Governance and Cultural Heritage Management Bill, 2026
29. The Advanced Medical Response Infrastructure and Training Bill, 2026
30. The Domestic Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2026
31. The Shakti Samman (Pay Parity for Women) Bill, 2026
32. The Critical Infrastructure (Resilience, Protection and Accountability) Bill, 2026

THE URBAN AREAS (DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION) BILL, 2024

The motion for withdrawal of the Bill was adopted.

**THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN FROM SEXUAL OFFENCES (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2024 – contd.**

MS. SWATI MALIWAL, continuing her unfinished speech dated 05.12.2025, said: I am speaking today not for politics, but for the safety of women and children, which is a basic necessity of India. Any crime against a daughter anywhere in the country is a national concern. Parents today live in fear for their daughters' safety—this is not the India we want. Daughters need freedom, not constant monitoring. NCRB data shows alarming levels of rape and crimes against children, and these numbers reflect only reported cases. Often, after the crime, the system itself becomes another source of suffering for the victim. I recall the 2018 case of an eight-month-old baby who is still waiting for justice years later. Over three lakh POCSO cases remain pending, fast-track courts are inadequate, and weak investigations and delayed forensic reports have led to very low conviction rates. Laws alone are not enough. Criminals do not fear punishment because it is neither swift nor certain. GB Road, close to Parliament, continues to exploit women and minors. This reality proves that strong laws must be backed by strict and honest implementation. I want to highlight the grave reality of sexual exploitation and women's safety in our country. I encountered a girl who appeared to be in her early thirties, but a bone age test revealed she was only 14 years old. She had been sold at the age of nine and was suffering from several diseases when we reached her. Although she was placed in a government shelter home and the matter went up to the High Court, she disappeared and has never been found. Even today, I do not know whether she is alive. This reflects the broader situation in the country. State Governments must act urgently. Spas need strict regulation, and cross-gender massage must be banned nationwide. During my nine years at the Delhi Commission for Women, I handled sexual abuse cases involving victims from eight-month-old infants to ninety-year-old women. One truth is undeniable: rape is not about clothing, it is about mindset. Women's safety is not just the

responsibility of the police or government; it is a collective responsibility of society. Laws are essential, but their strict and honest implementation is even more important. Police resources and accountability must increase. Every district must have fast-track courts and modern forensic laboratories so justice is not delayed. Child Welfare Committees must be properly staffed and resourced, and public prosecutors need institutional support to effectively fight cases. Witness protection and rehabilitation laws for rape survivors are necessary to address their social, psychological, educational, and livelihood needs. CCTV coverage must be expanded, and any negligence by officials or leaders must invite strict punishment. I have met Nirbhaya's mother, and her words still haunt me—how could her daughter have endured the humiliation of seeking justice in our system? I dream of an India where no Nirbhaya exists and where every daughter can return home at midnight without fear, allowing her parents to live in peace.

Discussion not concluded.

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Secretary-General.

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