

RAJYA SABHA

LIST OF BUSINESS

Friday, April 8, 2022

11 A.M.

#QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS entered in separate lists to be asked and answers given.

(FROM 2.30 P.M. TO 5.00 P.M.)

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS (RESOLUTIONS)

1. FURTHER DISCUSSION on the following Resolution moved by SHRI RAKESH SINHA[@] on the 25th March, 2022:-

"Having regard to the fact that:-

- (i) India is an ancient civilization which has developed through thousands of years of civilizational journey, a knowledge tradition that has been renowned for its excellence in all spheres of human life, from philosophy to science, from agriculture to the arts;
- (ii) the Indian knowledge tradition had to face neglect due to long years of colonial slavery as the colonial culture tried to create a sense of inferiority towards it;
- (iii) India's renowned knowledge centres faced political, military and cultural attacks during the colonial period and even before that, the burning down of the world-famous Nalanda University being such an instance, which many generations did not even know and on which a short book was also written by Hasmukh Sankalia in 1934;
- (iv) there were many prominent universities like viz., Nalanda, Vikramshila, Takshashila, Kanthallur Shala in Kerala (between 9th to 12th century), etc.;
- (v) the western education system was introduced by Lord Macaulay during the colonial period, which aimed to alienate Indians from their knowledge tradition as Mahatma Gandhi, in his speech in 1931, also summed up the latter as "Beautiful tree perished";
- (vi) the position India held in the field of education before the arrival of the British can be understood from the first survey report of the District Collectors (July 1, 1936) which stated that there were one lakh schools in Bengal-Bihar and the report of the 21 districts of Madras stated that there were 11,575 scholars and 1,57,195 students in the Madras Presidency alone and there were about 1904 institutions of higher education;

[#] At 12 Noon.

[@] Original notice received in Hindi.

- (vii) English education and ideas originating from Europe enslaved ideas and discourses along with political slavery and this sentiment also prevailed after independence;
 - (viii) in addition to texts like Vedas, Bhagavad Gita, Mahabharata, Puranas, Ramcharitmanas etc., thousands of texts of different streams of knowledge were written, for example, Panchatantra, which has been translated into fifty languages of the world and its second translation was done in the Persian language in 570 A.D.;
 - (ix) in spite of colonial influence and continued neglect, India's knowledge tradition has survived due to its distinctiveness and even today the traditional centre of learning survives in rural areas;
 - (x) books, manuscripts and information related to knowledge tradition are available in all parts of the country and a lot of information is in the form of *Shrutis*;
 - (xi) with the passage of time those manuscripts and information have been destroyed;
 - (xii) philosophical traditions have been kept alive in many villages even today, e.g., the tradition of studying *Nyaya Darshana* continues in Sarisab Pahi, a village in Mithila, Bihar;
 - (xiii) many historical events and traditions of the *Shastrartha* (intellectual debate) tradition in Kerala and Kashi are mentioned in the *Jan-Shrutis* and even today this tradition has been kept alive in many places;
 - (xiv) Tantra Vidya is being studied in Assam's Mayang for centuries and in *Naya Gaanv* of West Bengal, 250 *Patuas* (painters) have maintained the tradition of its expression through painting and music for centuries;
 - (xv) the tribal knowledge tradition is also full of specific modalities and useful and historical information related to many cultural, geographical, climatic and economic activities;
 - (xvi) historian K.P. Jaiswal mentioned about antiquity and experimentalism of democracy in the country in his book 'Hindu Polity' but the information about its countless events and experiments is spread everywhere;
 - (xvii) efforts have been made by scholars and institutions to free India from cultural-ideological slavery but it has not been able to take the form of the renaissance of knowledge-tradition;
 - (xviii) fairs, festivals, meetings are held in small places in almost all parts of the country, some of which are taking place for many hundreds of years;
 - (xix) the spread of comprehensiveness and speciality in various streams of knowledge and philosophy is experienced both at the local and national levels;
 - (xx) emphasis has been laid on research in the new education policy,
- this House urges upon the Government to-
- (a) establish Research Foundations at the State and district levels on the lines of the National Research Foundation that has been established under the New Education Policy to revive the Indian knowledge tradition;

- (b) make it mandatory for all the universities and colleges of the country to collect information about the local culture, various streams of knowledge and other local information;
- (c) provide option and opportunity to students of all disciplines to join this research in part-time mode and give them a diploma or degree for this work;
- (d) provide opportunity to every person of the country to join the projects of the university/college to conduct research or collect information on aspects related to micro- culture;
- (e) grant national recognition to traditions pertaining to art, literature, culture, discussions and festivals which have been existing for hundreds of years;
- (f) form a civilization-culture cell at the national and state level with adequate financial assistance to the groups associated with such traditions and micro-cultures,
- (g) make an organized effort in the country for the attainment of *Swaraj* (Self-Rule) of ideas."

2. SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR^s to move the following Resolution:-

"Having regard to the fact that-

- (i) India is an agrarian country with more than 55% of its population still engaged in this profession;
- (ii) since ancient times, agriculture has been at the core of the country's economy and even at the time of its independence the contribution of agriculture to the country's economy was almost 51.8%;
- (iii) since 2014, when the new Government came to power, agriculture has been its priority and the Government has worked diligently on various schemes in different sectors to make our country self-reliant;
- (iv) in the agriculture sector, the Government has done a commendable job by introducing *Neem* coated urea, Soil Health Cards, *Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana*, *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana* and *Kisan Samman Nidhi*, yet a lot still remains to be done to make agriculture completely self-sufficient;
- (v) the current Government has done commendable work on various schemes aimed at making India a self-reliant country by increasing farmers' income through schemes meant for setting up of start-ups and cold chains and allocating a budget of Rs. 1 lakh crore for agri-infra even during Corona pandemic time, but still more steps are required so that the agriculture sector is made completely self-reliant in order to achieve self-reliance for the country;
- (vi) the population of our country is about 18% of the world's population while livestock comprise about 11% but India has just 2.4% of the world's total land surface area and accounts for about 4.2% of the world's water resources;
- (vii) with the changing climate, it is necessary to have new irrigation techniques, quality seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and good agricultural equipments, which the country still lacks, as even today fertilizers, insecticides, seeds, and agricultural equipments are being imported on a large scale to the country;

^s Original notice received in Hindi.

- (viii) two years ago, 27 pesticides, which had been popular in our country for decades were discontinued even though the farmers had no objections to their use and these pesticides are still being used in developed countries and no substitutes have been developed to replace them;
- (ix) the cost of importing pesticides is quite high and their quality has also not been ascertained, so this year, in many states like Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the disease affecting the chilli crop has destroyed crops worth more than 4 thousand crores which has adversely affected both "Make in India" and "Self-reliant India";
- (x) in the field of agriculture, enough labour is not available to farmers and even if it is available, the farmers have to pay a high cost, which increases the cost of agriculture making it necessary to reduce these expenses to increase farmers' income, by linking MGNREGA to agriculture; and
- (xi) in the storage sector, almost 22% of food grains get wasted every year either due to inadequate storage facilities or due to the lack of proper processing facilities for agricultural products and farmers get only an estimated 23% share of the actual price of the product and the remaining 77% share is usurped by middlemen,

this House urges the Government to-

- (a) make the agriculture sector self-reliant by replacing the imports of chemical fertilizers worth over 55 thousand crores every year through domestic production of the same and by using organic fertilizers which are indigenously produced in the country as an alternative;
- (b) develop new seed varieties by promoting research in the country and make them available to farmers at low prices so as to counter the large scale seed deterioration and the resultant importing of seeds;
- (c) lift the ban on 27 commonly used pesticides that were used by farmers for many decades till alternatives are found;
- (d) take steps to provide low cost agricultural equipments to the farmers by manufacturing them in the country instead of importing them, and the GST rate on such equipments should be reduced to nil;
- (e) increase the income of farmers by reducing their input costs by linking MGNREGA to farming to manage labour cost; and
- (f) constitute a National Farmers Commission having constitutional status."

3. DR. FAUZIA KHAN to move the following Resolution:-

" Having regard to the fact that -

- (i) Dr Bhuvana Vasudevan from Puducherry is running Bridges Learning Vidyalaya since 1993, helping 6000 kids with learning disabilities including Dyslexia, Discalculia, Disgraphia and so on, from whom some have become doctors, engineers and so on;
- (ii) by applauding these efforts, light must be thrown on the growing issue of relatively untapped disability, which is the learning disability;
- (iii) learning disabilities, just like other developmental problems are both a health and an educational issue, but unfortunately, the meeting point between the two is few and far between;

- (iv) with most of the research and intervention work being done by private organisations and NGOs, there is little communication between these organisations and State educational authorities;
- (v) while there has been no macro-level study to estimate the prevalence of learning disabilities amongst children, multiple independent studies calculate the range of its occurrence between 10 and 12 per cent of the school going children which roughly, translates into at least four children in a classroom, with learning disabilities;
- (vi) being processing problems it can interfere with the learning of basic skills like reading, writing and mathematical ability and are very commonly confused with learning problems which are primarily the result of impaired vision, hearing, motor functioning, intellectual ability or due to emotional disturbance caused by or of environmental, cultural or economic disadvantages;
- (vii) learning disabilities being relatively of recent recognition in our country, there are still no clear-cut and commonly-accepted assessment procedures, policies or indigenous tools to diagnose learning disabilities;
- (viii) this issue gets further complicated due to the lack of awareness amongst teachers about the assessment procedures or indigenous tools for the assessment of processing deficits, intelligence testing and testing for proficiency in reading and writing;
- (ix) teachers describe learnings difficulties to a language problem without realising that learning disabilities are also a language-based disorder;
- (x) one of the major challenges behind the difficulty in diagnosis is the multilingual social context in our country, with the overwhelming influence of Western thought and English becoming the medium of instruction;
- (xi) another challenge is the overwhelming emphasis on theory rather than application, which is ill-suited for the child with learning disabilities and with the existing legal definitions viewing disability strictly from the medical and/or psychometric perspective, it is reinforcing a medical model of intervention rather than the much needed community-based rehabilitation;
- (xii) the three existing legislations, *viz.*, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, the Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992; and the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 are comprehensive in spirit and together deal with all aspects related to rehabilitation, prevention, training, employment, long-term settlement, human resource development, research and documentation but learning disabilities are not included in any of these Acts; and
- (xiii) the Government of Maharashtra has provided guidelines prescribing for concessions for children with learning disabilities from classes I to XII, but in the absence of a national policy, schools in Mumbai are reluctant to follow these guidelines.

this House urges upon the Government to-

- (a) view the developmental disorders, from both health and educational perspectives;
- (b) create awareness about the learning disabilities and create non-stigmatising processes to address the problem;

- (c) formulate a constructive policy to address the problem of developmental disorders and learning disabilities under the ambit of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; and
- (d) ensure support to such children so that the schools and educational institutions may be turned into inclusive and accessible spaces for all"

4. DR. SASMIT PATRA to move the following Resolution:-

"Having regard to the fact that:-

- (i) according to the Inter -Parliamentary Union, our country stood 149th out of 193 countries in 2019, ranked by the percentage of elected women representatives in their national parliaments;
- (ii) our country trails behind Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan and has dropped three places since 2018;
- (iii) our country had 65 women out of 545 Members of Parliament (MPs) elected to the 16th Lok Sabha in May 2014, recording 12% representation and only the 15th and 16th Lok Sabha changed a previously stagnant representation of under 9% recorded by Indian women MPs since Independence;
- (iv) currently, the 17th Lok Sabha has 78 women Members of Parliament (MPs) out of the 716 women candidates who contested elections comprising only 14% of the House which is a small improvement from 62 women MPs in 2014;
- (v) in the 17th Lok Sabha, out of a total 29 States, women MPs were elected from 22, leaving seven States, *i.e.*, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim with no female representation in the Parliament;
- (vi) according to the last census, 48% of our country's population is female, which makes the percentage of women representatives 14.36 % in the Parliament which is abysmally low;
- (vii) with respect to the Rajya Sabha, the inductions made in 2020 brought the number of women MPs to 25 out of 245, just over 10% of the House;
- (viii) the strength of women in the Rajya Sabha has been dismal since 1957 as average number of female Rajya Sabha members is 9.5% while the highest was 12.7%, in 2014;
- (ix) Odisha was the first State in our country to implement the provisions of 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 by making reservation of 1/3rd seats for women and also for women belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes out of the total seats;
- (x) Odisha is the only State in our country to have one-third women MPs in Lok Sabha currently;
- (xi) the father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi also believed in women empowerment;
- (xii) a 2018 study titled 'Women Legislators and Economic Performance' by the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research estimates that "women legislators in India raise luminosity growth in their constituencies by about 15 percentage points per annum more than male legislators";

- (xiii) according to the United Nations, the percentage of women in Parliament has doubled globally in the last 20 years but our country has not shown a corresponding trend;
- (xiv) low representation of women in the Indian legislature can be traced to the patriarchal structure of politics in the country;
- (xv) lack of reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies, unwillingness among political parties to give tickets to women, a general lack of awareness of electoral politics among women and the lack of family support, are few reasons for low representation of women in the Parliament;
- (xvi) another often cited excuse of lack of winnability of women is a complete fallacy in the face of counter-evidence that in every single Lok Sabha election since 1952, as per Election Commission statistics women have won at a greater rate than men;
- (xvii) a fully representative Parliament allows the different experiences of genders to craft priorities and shape the economic and social future of a democratic society;
- (xviii) there is documented evidence both at the international level and at the Gram Panchayat (village) level to suggest that a greater representation of women in elected office balances the process and prioritizations that elected bodies focus upon;
- (xix) in terms of policy styles, the inclusion of women adds behind the scenes discussion rather than confrontation on the floor of the House;
- (xx) anecdotal data from democracies across the world suggests that the presence of more women will mean that they will bring with them personal experiences and viewpoints that will ensure more robust debates, more bipartisan decisions and more balanced legislative outcomes on a spate of issues;
- (xxi) if we are committed to become one of the world's leading economies and an equitable society, then the government should ensure that in a new India women contribute equally to the country's development;
- (xxii) in democracies like South Africa, Australia, Sweden, Germany and the United Kingdom, the political parties have acknowledged the gender gap in legislation and have course-corrected to enable a democracy that hears diverse voices on legislation and policy;
- (xxiii) there is a need for parties to self-enforce voluntary quotas or minimum limits of 33% or 50% women in their candidate lists and party leadership roles as most of our neighbours, from Pakistan and Afghanistan to Nepal and Bangladesh, have reserved parliamentary seats for women;
- (xxiv) our country has so far made no progress on the intent of the Bill (One Hundred and Eighth Amendment Bill or the women's reservation bill) to reserve a third of the seats in Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assemblies for women though it was passed by this House a decade ago and lapsed on the dissolution of Lok Sabha; and
- (xxv) there is an urgent need for increasing the representation of women in our Parliament,

the House urges upon the Government to:

- (a) introduce 33% reservation quota for women in Parliament to increase the representation of women and to ensure inclusivity in Parliament;
- (b) establish the constitutional obligation of the principle of equality between men and women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions;
- (c) introduce institutional mechanisms guaranteeing women's participation in the decision-making process and ensure that such mechanisms are implemented in practice to set the objective of achieving a certain minimum representation of women in decision making bodies particularly within elected assemblies and promote women's participation in all sectors of social and economic life;
- (d) promote the efforts of the Election Commission to encourage reservation for women in political parties; and
- (e) conduct awareness and educational campaigns to develop role models that encourage women towards politics."

5. SHRI SHAKTISINH GOHIL[%] to move the following resolution:-

"Having regard to the fact that:

- (i) many people lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic in the country;
- (ii) considering this a pandemic, the Government of India had issued a notification giving four lakh rupees *ex-gratia* to each of those families who lost lives due to pandemic from the National Disaster Relief Fund;
- (iii) the said notification was withdrawn subsequently and no relief was given to the families of the people who lost their lives due to this pandemic; and
- (iv) the Supreme Court took cognizance of the issue and adopted a humane approach by directing the Government to provide necessary help to the affected families;

this House is of the opinion that-

- (a) the families of those who died in the COVID-19 disaster should be given *ex-gratia* relief amount of Rs. 4 lakh each; and
- (b) the actual number of deaths caused due to COVID-19 should be ascertained by conducting a survey."

6. SHRI JOHN BRITTAS to move the following Resolution:-

"Having regard to the fact that:-

- (i) All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) are a group of autonomous government public medical universities of higher education under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India;
- (ii) these institutes have been declared by an Act of Parliament as Institutes of National Importance;
- (iii) the Government of India, under the *Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana* (PMSSY) initiative which aimed at correcting regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/reliable tertiary healthcare services in the country, has been setting up new AIIMS to

[%] Original notice received in Hindi.

provide major thrust for creation of advanced tertiary healthcare infrastructure, medical education and research facilities in different parts of the country;

- (iv) a total of 22 AIIMS have been announced so far under the PMSSY in various States, wherein the State of Kerala has not been included;
- (v) at present, Kerala is perhaps the only major State in the country that does not figure on the list of AIIMS under the PMSSY scheme;
- (vi) the demand to set up an AIIMS in the State of Kerala dates back over a decade;
- (vii) the State is having a widely acclaimed healthcare system and the least infant mortality rate in the country;
- (viii) though the State of Kerala have remarkable feats in the healthcare sector and enjoys a prominent position in the matter of well-organized upkeep of public healthcare system, it lacks a Union Government funded Institution of National Importance for tertiary healthcare services for all kinds of treatments and research facilities;
- (ix) earlier, the Government had said that AIIMS would be granted for the State if it has identified a suitable place for the institution;
- (x) the Chief Minister of the State has been giving special attention and profound interest for getting an AIIMS to the State of Kerala; and
- (xi) the Government of Kerala has already identified suitable location for AIIMS at Kinalur in Kozhikode district in the State which is having all required facilities to cater the requirements for the establishment of AIIMS and requested the Union Government to accord sanction to set up AIIMS in the State,

this House urges upon the Government to-

- (a) accord sanction to set up AIIMS in the State of Kerala,
- (b) to execute Memorandum of Understanding with the State Government at the earliest for setting up AIIMS at Kinalur in Kozhikode district in the State of Kerala, and
- (c) take steps to commence works for establishing the AIIMS at Kinalur in the State by appointing an executing agency and fulfilling such other required formalities at the earliest.”

NEW DELHI;
April 6, 2022

P. C. MODY,
Secretary-General.