

RAJYA SABHA

Parliamentary Bulletin

PART - I

(TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY SECOND SESSION)

No. 5319]

FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017

**Brief Record of the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Rajya Sabha held
on the 17th March, 2017**

11-00 a.m.

1. Papers Laid on the Table

The following papers were laid on the Table:—

1. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—
 - (a) Annual Report of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, for the year 2016-17.
 - (b) Annual Accounts of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, for the year 2015-16, and the Audit Report thereon.
 - (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Council.
 - (d) Statement by Government accepting the Annual Accounts and Audit Report of the above Council, for the year 2015-16.
 - (e) Statements giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) and (b) above.

2.(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (1) (b) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:—

- (a) Fortieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Burn Standard Company Limited (BSCL), Kolkata, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

3.(1) A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (3) of Section 29 of the Central Agricultural University Act, 1992:—

(a) Annual Report of the Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur, for the year 2014-15.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above University.

(2) Statement (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

4. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(a) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Ahmedabad, Gujarat, for the year 2015-16, and the Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of Section 23 of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Act, 1998.

(b) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the paper mentioned at (a) above.

5. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs), under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

(1) G.S.R. 929 (E), dated the 29th September, 2016, publishing the Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs Order, 2016.

(2) S.O. 3341 (E), dated the 28th October, 2016, publishing the Removal of Licensing requirements, Stock limits and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs (Amendment) Order, 2016.

6. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution) Notification No. G.S.R. 165 (E), dated the 23rd February, 2017,

publishing the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Registration of Warehouses Rules, 2017, under Section 52 of the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007.

11-02 a.m.

2. Reports of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce

Shri Bhupender Yadav presented the following Reports (in English and Hindi) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce:—

- (i) 132nd Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and
- (ii) 133rd Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

3. Reports of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture

Shri Mukul Roy presented the following Reports (in English and Hindi) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture:—

- (i) Two Hundred Forty Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation;
- (ii) Two Hundred Forty Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Culture;
- (iii) Two Hundred Forty Sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways;
- (iv) Two Hundred Forty Seventh Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Shipping; and
- (v) Two Hundred Forty Eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Tourism.

11-03 a.m.

4. Report of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel

Shri Ali Anwar Ansari, laid on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Twenty-eighth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (2016-17) on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Mines.

5. Reports of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance

Dr. Mahendra Prasad, laid on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance (2016-17):—

- (i) Forty-sixth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Financial Services and Investment & Public Asset Management);
- (ii) Forty-seventh Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue); and
- (iii) Forty-eighth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Planning.

11-04 a.m.

6. Reports of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology

Shri P. Bhattacharya, laid on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology (2016-17):—

- (i) Thirty-fifth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications);

- (ii) Thirty-sixth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology; and
- (iii) Thirty-seventh Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Posts).

11-05 a.m.

7. Report of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas

Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita, laid on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Eighteenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2016-17) on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

8. Reports of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment

Shrimati Chhaya Verma, laid on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2016-17):—

- (i) Thirty-sixth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment);
- (ii) Thirty-seventh Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities);
- (iii) Thirty-eighth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs; and
- (iv) Thirty-ninth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

11-06 a.m.

9. Reports of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Development

Shri Anil Desai, laid on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Development (2016-17):—

- (i) Fifteenth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-2018)' of the Ministry of Urban Development; and
- (ii) Sixteenth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-2018)' of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

10. Reports of the Public Accounts Committee

Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, laid on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Public Accounts Committee (2016-17):—

- (i) Sixty-fourth Report on the subject "Shared Mobile Infrastructure Scheme" based on Para No. 2.2 of C&AG Report No. 17 of 2014 relating to the Ministry of Communications and IT;
- (ii) Sixty-fifth Report on the subject "Nutrient Based Subsidy Policy For Decontrolled Phosphatic & Potassic Fertilizers" based on the C&AG Report No. 16 of 2015 relating to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers; and
- (iii) Sixty-sixth Report on the subject "Non-Compliance by Ministries/Departments in timely submission of Action Taken Notes on the Non-Selected Audit Paragraphs (Civil and Other Ministries)".

11-07 a.m.

11. Statements by Ministers

1. Shri Rajen Gohain, Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways, laid on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways on 'Safety and Security in Railways'.

2. Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, Minister of State in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, in the Ministry of Shipping and in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, laid on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-first Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers on Demands for Grants (2016-17) pertaining to the Department of Fertilizers.

11-08 a.m.

12. Statement regarding Government Business

Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs made a statement regarding Government Business for the week commencing Monday, the 20th of March, 2017.

* 11-22 a.m.

13. Matters raised with Permission

1. Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy raised a matter regarding concern over the strategic sale of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Company and the Bridge and Roof Company.

¢ 11-30 a.m.

2. Shri Ritabrata Banerjee raised a matter regarding need to stop the strategic sale of some Alloy Steel Plants by SAIL.

® 11-39 a.m.

3. Shri Harivansh raised a matter regarding plight of common man due to economic burden imposed by the Government.

11-41 a.m.

The House adjourned and re-assembled at 12-00 Noon.

* From 11-09 a.m. to 11-22 a.m., some points were raised.

¢ From 11-24 a.m. to 11-30 a.m., some points were raised.

® From 11-32 a.m. to 11-39 a.m., some points were raised.

12-00 Noon

14. Starred Questions

Starred Question Nos. 166 to 170 were orally answered. Answers to remaining Starred Questions (171 to 180) were laid on the Table.

15. Unstarred Questions

Answers to Unstarred Question Nos. 1757 to 1916 were laid on the Table.

1-00 p.m.

The House adjourned and re-assembled at 2-34 p.m.

2-34 p.m.

16. Supplementary Demands For Grants (General) 2016-17

Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, laid on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2016-17.

2-35 p.m.

17. Private Members' Resolutions— Withdrawn/Under Consideration

(1) Shri Tiruchi Siva moved the following Resolution:—

“Having regard to the fact that:—

- (i) from time immemorial, India has been an agrarian economy as the agricultural sector employs 263.1 million Indians, which accounts for 54.6% of the total Indian workforce;
- (ii) agriculture contributed 15.4% of the Gross Value Added in 2015-16;
- (iii) over the years, indigenous breeds of cattle have been the backbone of the agricultural economy as prior to the introduction of modern farm equipments, agriculture would

not have been possible without cattle and even today, cattle play an important role in agricultural activities, particularly for the small and medium farmers;

- (iv) bull power is used for ploughing and transportation, which saves electricity and consumption of large volumes of fossil fuel that are harmful to the environment;
- (v) India imported 2.28 lakhs TMT of crude oil and other petroleum products in the year 2015-16, worth Rs. 5.24 lakh crores, 60 lakh tonnes of diesel worth Rs. 4000 crores which can be potentially saved by replacing tractors by cattle for the purposes of ploughing and transportation;
- (vi) cattle manure has been traditionally used in India as fertiliser which helps reduce reliance on chemical fertilisers and pesticides, that have a negative effect on soil quality and harm quality of food crops produced as India consumed 256 lakh tonnes of fertilizers in 2014-15;
- (vii) indiscriminate use of fertilisers and pesticides in agriculture has been linked to spread of diseases through food products but use of dung and urine from cattle has a positive impact on the environment and soil quality, with no negative effects on health;
- (viii) a higher dependence on fossil fuels and chemical based farm inputs significantly raises the cost of farming resulting in higher food prices;
- (ix) by increasing reliance on cattle in agriculture, one can reduce cost of food products and avoid negative effects on environment and health;
- (x) cattle used in agriculture are reared with great care, and are fed a high-quality diet, including grass fodder grown exclusively for the cattle and their health is monitored and taken care of on a periodic basis by qualified veterinary doctors;
- (xi) native breeds of cattle are gradually being phased out due to the onslaught of modern farm equipments and the import of exotic breeds;
- (xii) as per the Livestock Census conducted by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries of the Government

of India, the total indigenous cattle population in India has reduced by 8.94% from 1660.15 lakhs in 2007 to 1511.72 lakhs in 2012, which is a small fraction of the total actual requirement for cattle for agricultural practises;

- (xiii) the population of exotic breeds of cattle has increased by 20.18% in the same period, from 330.6 lakhs in 2007 to 397.32 lakhs in 2012;
- (xiv) owing to the decline in the population of the indigenous bulls, artificial insemination is increasingly being relied upon for breeding of cows;
- (xv) article 48 of the Constitution of India directs that the State shall endeavour to take steps for preserving and improving breeds of animals; and
- (xvi) all possible steps are needed to be taken to preserve, improve and protect the stock of indigenous cattle of the country,

this House urges upon the Government to: —

- (a) suitably amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 to exempt bulls from the application of provisions that restrict their utility and training for various purposes by using of various techniques to train them to perform agricultural tasks such as ploughing and transportation;
- (b) include the amended Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution of India; and
- (c) take steps to encourage and incentivise the use of indigenous cattle for agricultural purposes and improve their health and stock."

The following Members took part in the discussion:—

2-57 p.m.	1.	Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu
3-06 p.m.	2.	Shri Basawaraj Patil
3-15 p.m.	3.	Shri La. Ganesan
3-21 p.m.	4.	Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth
3-32 p.m.	5.	Shri B.K. Hariprasad
3-38 p.m.	6.	Shri Meghraj Jain
3-44 p.m.	7.	Shri Jairam Ramesh
3-58 p.m.	8.	Shri D. Raja

4-07 p.m.	9.	Mahant Shambhuprasadji Tundiya
4-12 p.m.	10.	Shri T.K.S. Elangovan
[∇] 4-17 p.m.	11.	Shri Sudarshan Bhagat, <i>Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare</i>

4-23 p.m.

Shri Tiruchi Siva replied to the debate.

[∞]4-40 p.m.

The Resolution was withdrawn by leave of the House.

4-41 p.m.

(2) Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad moved the following Resolution:—

"Having regard to the fact that:—

- (a) desperation is growing among farmers in Bundelkhand region due to crop failure because of drought, flood, frost and hailstorm;
- (b) this region consists of seven districts of Uttar Pradesh namely, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalon, Banda, Chitrakoot, Mahoba and Hamirpur and seven districts of Madhya Pradesh namely, Chhatarpur, Panna, Sagar, Damoh, Tikamgarh, Datia and Gwalior;
- (c) farmers of Bundelkhand are continuously migrating to other places in search of employment for the last many decades;
- (d) farmers in Bundelkhand are getting frustrated because of huge loss of crops due to wild animals and *Nilgais*;
- (e) Bundelkhand is mainly rain-fed agricultural region and the production of crops depends mainly on the monsoon, which causes an irregularity in production and income that makes the life of farmers uncertain and difficult;

[∇] From 4-16 p.m. to 4-17 p.m., some points were raised.

[∞] From 4-38 p.m. to 4-40 p.m., some points were raised.

- (f) due to persistent severe droughts in Bundelkhand, crop production is continuously decreasing as a result of which farmers are not even able to recover their cost price;
- (g) the financial income in the region is meager because of dearth of agro-based and cottage industries; and
- (h) agriculture has become a vocation of loss because of undervaluation of cash crops and wide spread exploitation of trade which is the prominent reason for burden of debt and desperation prevalent amongst the farmers of Uttar Pradesh;

this House is of the opinion that-

- (i) small scale and cottage industries should be established in the region;
- (ii) a training centre for central police force must be commissioned in Chitrakoot, Banda and Satna area of Bundelkhand, so that farmers in the area may get some security;
- (iii) loan recovery from farmers in Bundelkhand be stopped and waived off besides providing fertilizers, seeds and electricity free of cost to them;
- (iv) the farmers of Bundelkhand should be awarded a package of fifty thousand crore rupees, which will cater to completion of various incomplete works of the region and help in sustainable crop enhancement, macro-micro irrigation projects and other schemes related to development of infrastructure in the region;
- (v) a separate fund with the corpus of Rs. 500 crore should be established to provide financial help to elderly wives of old farmers and to provide facilities related to higher education for their children as thousands of elderly women and widows have high expectations of a relief and rehabilitation package;
- (vi) as the Finance Minister had promised in his budget speech, the Government should establish a price stabilization fund and a national market for agro products, start micro-irrigation and water-shed projects in drought prone areas, new and increased NABARD fund to restore the credit and steps should be taken to increase the storage capacity;
- (vii) useful information should be provided regarding reasons for drought and forecast of appropriate time for sowing the crops

to lessen the effect of it and there should be proper rain water management and crop monitoring;

- (viii) a survey of all poor and labourers of Bundelkhand should be conducted and on that basis BPL cards, free accommodation and toilet facilities be provided;
- (ix) the Central Government should take steps to stop the loss of crops due to wild animals and *Nilgais*;
- (x) the Central Government should provide free fertilizers and seeds in order to promote production of pulses and oil seeds;
- (xi) Yamuna Canal should be built by making a dam on Yamuna river near village *Augasi* of Banda district so that the problem of irrigation in Bundelkhand may be solved;
- (xii) besides the existing ponds in Bundelkhand region, concrete ponds should be constructed at places in the fields for rain water harvesting so that the farmers can use the water of these ponds when needed for irrigating their respective fields and reap the harvest and the Central Government should provide interest free loan for this purpose;
- (xiii) to curb migration from this region, the schemes like MNREGA should be amended and consideration be made for giving more than 100 days employment throughout the year under such scheme;
- (xiv) for plantation of fruit bearing trees in this region, a time-bound systematic action plan should be initiated under a Central Scheme;
- (xv) for irrigation in the region, irrigation of crops of the farmers should be ensured by laying pipes in the fields, so that the production can be increased to improve the conditions of farmers;
- (xvi) there is a need to roll out schemes to encourage farmers of Bundelkhand to do cultivation with modern equipments;
- (xvii) for all round development of Bundelkhand, there should be a guarantee of employment to all the groups of persons above 18 years of age which will stop migration and totally curb the suicides committed by farmers;

- (xviii) since this region is extremely backward in education, there should be a separate special provision in Education Policy for this region;
- (xix) keeping in view the electricity problem in the Bundelkhand region, electricity should be supplied on concessional rates by the Central Government; and
- (xx) in order to protect crops of farmers from wild animals and *Nilgais*, the Central Government should make arrangement in every *Nyaya Panchayat* for an Animal Shelter Centre and a *Gausala* (Public Cow Shelter).

Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad had not concluded his speech while moving the Resolution.

The discussion was not concluded.

5-05 p.m.

18. Special Mentions

The following Special Mentions were laid on the Table of the House:—

1. Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad Demand to open Kendriya Vidyalayas in certain districts of Bundelkhand region in Uttar Pradesh.
2. Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy Demand to take necessary steps to celebrate the millennium birth anniversary of the Saint Sri Ramanujachari in the country.

(Due to gross disorderly conduct in violation of the rules and etiquette of Rajya Sabha by the following Members, who entered the 'Well' of the House, shouted slogans and persistently and willfully obstructed the proceedings of the House, the Chair adjourned the House at 11-41 a.m.:—

1. Shri Mohd. Ali Khan
2. Shrimati Chhaya Verma
3. Dr. K.V. P. Ramachandra Rao
4. Shri Ripun Bora
5. Shri B.K. Hariprasad

6. *Shrimati Rajani Patil*
7. *Shrimati Wansuk Syiem*
8. *Shri Parvez Hashmi*
9. *Shri Pradeep Tamta*
10. *Shri Oscar Fernandes*
11. *Shri Ranjib Biswal*
12. *Dr. Sanjay Sinh*
13. *Shri Raj Babbar*
14. *Shri P.L. Punia*
15. *Shri Pramod Tiwari*
16. *Shri Digvijaya Singh*
17. *Shri Rajeev Shukla*
18. *Shri Shadi Lal Batra*
19. *Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy*
20. *Shri Husain Dalwai*
21. *Shri Mahendra Singh Mahra*
22. *Shri K.C. Ramamurthy*
23. *Shri Santiuse Kujur*
24. *Shri P. Bhattacharya*
25. *Shri Madhusudan Mistry*
26. *Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury*
27. *Prof. M.V. Rajeev Gowda*
28. *Dr. Pradeep Kumar Balmuchu*

5-07 p.m.

The House adjourned till 11-00 a.m. on Monday, the 20th March, 2017.

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General