

RAJYA SABHA

Parliamentary Bulletin

PART - I

(TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY SECOND SESSION)

No. 5320]

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017

**Brief Record of the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Rajya Sabha held
on the 20th March, 2017**

11-00 a.m.

1. Oath or Affirmation

Shri Manish Gupta (West Bengal) made and subscribed oath and took his seat in the House.

11-02 a.m.

2. Obituary Reference

The Chairman made a reference to the passing away of Shri Pyarimohan Mohapatra (ex-Member).

The House observed silence, all Members standing, as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

11-05 a.m.

3. Papers Laid on the Table

The following papers were laid on the Table:—

1. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Mines Notification No. S.O. 27 (E), dated the 4th January, 2017, publishing the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Removal of Difficulties Order, 2017, under sub-section (2) of Section 24 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015.

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:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO), Shillong, Meghalaya, 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 Corporation.
 - (ii) (a) Fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. (SECI), New Delhi, 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 the Government on the working of the above Corporation.
 - (iii) (a) Ninety-fifth Annual Report and Accounts of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), Telangana, 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.
 - (iv) (a) Twenty-ninth Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA), New Delhi, 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) Performance Review of the above Agency, for the year 2015-16.
- (2) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) (i) and (ii) above.

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

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Biodiversity Authority, Chennai, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Authority.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

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

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA), New Delhi, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

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

(a) Annual Report and Accounts of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management (NERIWALM), Tezpur, Assam, for the year 2015-16, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

(c) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (a) above.

6. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, under sub-section (4) of Section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, along with Explanatory Memoranda and delay statement:—

(1) G.S.R. 1034 (E), dated the 2nd November, 2016, publishing the Central Motor Vehicles (19th Amendment) Rules, 2016.

(2) G.S.R. 1095 (E), dated the 28th November, 2016, publishing the Central Motor Vehicles (Twentieth Amendment) Rules, 2016.

(3) G.S.R. 1096 (E), dated the 28th November, 2016, publishing the Central Motor Vehicles (21st Amendment) Rules, 2016.

(4) G.S.R. 1183 (E), dated the 29th December, 2016, publishing the Central Motor Vehicles (Twenty-second Amendment) Rules, 2016.

7. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, under Section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:—

- (1) S.O. 3451 (E), dated the 15th November, 2016, amending Notification No. S.O. 2070 (E), dated the 7th August, 2009, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (2) S.O. 3452 (E), dated the 15th November, 2016, amending Notification No. S.O. 946 (E), dated the 30th April, 2012, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (3) S.O. 3638 (E), dated the 2nd December, 2016, regarding rate of fee to be collected from users of the stretch from K.M. 89.000 to K.M. 130.000 (Chenani - Nashri Section) on National Highway No. 1A in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.
- (4) S.O. 1114 (E), dated the 2nd December, 2016, publishing the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Amendment Rules, 2016.

8. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Shipping, under sub-section (4) of Section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:—

- (1) G.S.R. 1124 (E), dated the 9th December, 2016, publishing the Kandla Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.
- (2) G.S.R. 1125 (E), dated the 9th December, 2016, publishing the Paradip Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.
- (3) G.S.R. 1126 (E), dated the 9th December, 2016, publishing the Cochin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.
- (4) G.S.R. 1148 (E), dated the 16th December, 2016, publishing the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

- (5) G.S.R. 1149 (E), dated the 16th December, 2016, publishing the Kolkata Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.
- (6) G.S.R. 1150 (E), dated the 16th December, 2016, publishing the Mormugao Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.
- (7) G.S.R. 1151 (E), dated the 16th December, 2016, publishing the Cochin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.
- (8) G.S.R. 1185 (E), dated the 30th December, 2016, publishing the Chennai Port Trust Employees (Grant of Advances for Festival and Natural Calamities) Amendment Regulations, 2016.
- (9) G.S.R. 1186 (E), dated the 30th December, 2016, publishing the Mumbai Port Trust Employees (Leave) Amendment Regulations, 2016.
- (10) G.S.R. 1187 (E), dated the 30th December, 2016, publishing the Chennai Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.
- (11) G.S.R. 1188 (E), dated the 30th December, 2016, publishing the Kandla Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

9.(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:—

- (i) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Highway and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), New Delhi, 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 Corporation.
- (ii) (a) Thirty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited (HDPEL), 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) Statements (in English and Hindi) giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

11-06 a.m.

4. Reports of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare

Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav presented the following Reports (in English and Hindi) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare:—

- (i) 99th Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Department of Health and Family Welfare;
- (ii) 100th Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Department of Health Research; and
- (iii) 101st Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of AYUSH.

11-07 a.m.

5. Report of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture

Shri Meghraj Jain, laid on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Thirty-eighth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture (2016-17) on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

6. Reports of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers

Shri Biswajit Daimary, laid on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers:—

- (i) Thirty-first Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers); and

- (ii) Thirty-second Report on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals).

11-08 a.m.

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

Shri Ram Vichar Netam, laid on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Twenty-ninth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel (2016-17) on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Steel.

8. Report of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs

Shri Swapan Dasgupta, laid on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Fifteenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs (2016-17) on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of External Affairs.

11-09 a.m.

9. Reports of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution

Shri Shadi Lal Batra, laid on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (2016-17):—

- (i) Fifteenth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Food and Public Distribution); and
- (ii) Sixteenth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs).

10. Reports of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour

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

- (i) Twenty-second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Sixteenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2016-17)' of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship;
- (ii) Twenty-third Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Labour and Employment;
- (iii) Twenty-fourth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Textiles; and
- (iv) Twenty-fifth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

11-10 a.m.

11. Reports of the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development

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

- (i) Thirty-second Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development);
- (ii) Thirty-third Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources);
- (iii) Thirty-fourth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj;

- (iv) Thirty-fifth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation; and
- (v) Thirty-sixth Report of the Committee on 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)' of the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Rural Development).

^λ11-20 a.m.

12. Matters raised with Permission

1. Shri K.K. Ragesh raised a matter regarding need to withdraw the decision of SBI regarding penalty for non-maintenance of minimum balance in saving accounts.

Shri Tapan Kumar Sen also spoke.

11-23 a.m.

2. Shri Pramod Tiwari raised a matter regarding concern over suicide by farmers due to non-remunerative procurement prices of their produce.

11-27 a.m.

3. Dr. Vikas Mahatme raised a matter regarding need to give protection to doctors on casualty duty in the wake of the recent attack on a doctor in Maharashtra.

11-30 a.m.

4. Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy raised a matter regarding need to take steps to prevent incidents of forest fire in the country.

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, responded.

11-33 a.m.

5. Shri Partap Singh Bajwa raised a matter regarding need to form a Village Voluntary Force to counter infiltration of terrorists in Punjab borders.

^λ From 11-11 a.m. to 11-20 a.m., some points were raised.

11-37 a.m.

6. Dr. V. Maitreyan raised a matter regarding need to bring a resolution in the UNHRC meeting on 22nd March, 2017 for an independent investigation into the genocide of Eelam Tamils in 2009.

Shri A. Navaneethakrishnan, Shri T.K. Rangarajan and Shri D. Raja also spoke.

11-42 a.m.

7. Shrimati Rajani Patil raised a matter regarding problems being faced by farmers in various parts of the country, particularly in Maharashtra, due to unseasonal rains.

11-45 a.m.

8. Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati raised a matter regarding alleged neglect of forts of Shivaji and demand to include them in world heritage list.

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, responded.

11-49 a.m.

9. Shri Vivek Gupta raised a matter regarding hardships being faced by drivers of app-based taxi aggregators.

Shri Tapan Kumar Sen also spoke.

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, responded.

11-53 a.m.

10. Shri B.K. Hariprasad raised a matter regarding drought situation in Karnataka.

11-56 a.m.

11. Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy raised a matter regarding need for contingency plan for drought in Andhra Pradesh.

11-59 a.m.

13. Special Mentions

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

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|--|
| 1. | Shri Anil Desai | Demand to expedite the clearance of proposals of the Government of Maharashtra under National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP). |
| 2. | Shri Narayan Panchariya | Lal Demand to give additional risk benefits under Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme to farmers in Rajasthan. |
| 3. | Shri Vivek Gupta | Demand to frame stringent guidelines to regulate the private healthcare and pharma companies in the country. |

12-00 Noon

14. Starred Questions

Starred Question Nos. 181 to 187 and No. 191 were orally answered. Answers to remaining Starred Questions (188 to 190 and 192 to 195) were laid on the Table.

15. Unstarred Questions

Answers to Unstarred Question Nos. 1917 to 2076 were laid on the Table.

1-00 p.m.

The House adjourned and re-assembled at 2-02 p.m.

§2-04 p.m.

16. Government Bill Returned by Lok Sabha with Amendments — Amendments Agreed to

The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016, as amended by Lok Sabha.

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, moved that the following amendments made by Lok Sabha in the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016, be taken into consideration, namely:—

ENACTING FORMULA

1. That at page 1, line 1, *for* the word “Sixty-seventh”, the word “Sixty-eighth” be *substituted*.

CLAUSE 1

2. That at page 1, line 3, *for* the figure “2016”, the figure “2017” be *substituted*.

2-06 p.m.

The motion moved by Shri Bandaru Dattatreya that the amendments made by Lok Sabha in the Bill be agreed to, was adopted, and the amendments were agreed to.

§2-09 p.m.

17. The Union Budget, 2017-18

Further discussion on the Union Budget, 2017-18 continued:—

The following Members took part in the discussion:—

- | | | |
|-----------|----|---------------------------|
| 2-09 p.m. | 1. | Shri Shankarbhai N. Vegad |
| 2-24 p.m. | 2. | Shri Naresh Agrawal |

§ From 2-02 p.m. to 2-04 p.m., some points were raised.

§ From 2-07 p.m. to 2-09 p.m., some points were raised.

3-20 p.m.	3.	Shri R. Vaithilingam
3-34 p.m.	4.	Shrimati Jharna Das Baidya
3-44 p.m.	5.	Shri Tiruchi Siva
4-05 p.m.	6.	Prof. M.V. Rajeev Gowda
4-20 p.m.	7.	Shri Mahesh Poddar
4-46 p.m.	8.	Shri A. Navaneethakrishnan
5-14 p.m.	9.	Shri Joy Abraham

The discussion was not concluded.

5-31 p.m.

18. Statement by Minister

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs, made a statement regarding hate crimes against citizens of Indian origin and Indian nationals settled in the United States of America.

Thereafter, some members sought clarifications on the statement.

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, replied to the clarifications.

6-00 p.m.

19. Special Mention

Dr. V. Maitreyan made a Special Mention on the demand to institute an enquiry into the matter of alleged irregularities in recruitment for the posts of postman and mail guard in Tamil Nadu.

6-02 p.m.

The House adjourned till 11-00 a.m. on Tuesday, the 21st March, 2017.

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General