

RAJYA SABHA

Parliamentary Bulletin

PART - I

(TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY SEVENTH SESSION)

No. 5423]

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2018

Brief Record of the Proceedings of the Meeting of the Rajya Sabha held on the 21st December, 2018

11-00 a.m.

1. Observation by the Chair

The Chairman made some observations regarding the continuous disruption of the proceedings of the House and appealed to all Members and parties of the House to allow peaceful conduct of the House so that important issues could be discussed.

11-04 a.m.

2. Proclamation under article 356 of the Constitution

Shri Vijay Goel, Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, laid on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- (i) Proclamation [G.S.R. 1223(E)], issued by the President on 19th of December, 2018 under article 356 of the Constitution, in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, under clause (3) of the said article.
- (ii) Order [G.S.R. 1224(E)], dated the 19th of December, 2018, made by the President under sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of the Proclamation mentioned at (i) above.
- (iii) Report of the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir dated the 28th of November, 2018, to the President recommending the issue of the Proclamation.

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 Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs), Notification No. G.S.R. 815 (E), dated the 28th August, 2018, publishing the Notaries (Amendment) Rules, 2018, under sub-section (3) of Section 15 of the Notaries Act, 1952.

2. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education), Notification No. RLBCAU/CP/47/2016, dated the 24th October, 2018, publishing the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University Recruitment Rules (Non-Teaching Employees) - 2016, under sub-section (2) of Section 44 of the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University Act, 2014.

3. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Annual Report and Accounts of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAC), New Delhi, for the year 2017-18, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

4. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers) Notification No. S.O. 5571 (E), dated the 31st October, 2018, regarding quantities and supplies of urea to be made by manufacturers of urea to certain States and Union Territories during Rabi Season 2018-19 commencing from the 1st day of October, 2018 to the 31st Day of March, 2019, under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

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

- (a) Fiftieth Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET), Chennai, for the year 2017-18, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.

6. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications), under Section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:—

- (1) No. 324-5/2018-CA dated the 18th July, 2018, publishing the Telecommunication Consumers Education and Protection Fund (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2018, along with delay statement.

- (2) No. 311-04/2017-QoS, dated the 19th July, 2018, publishing the Telecom Commercial Communications Customer Preference Regulations, 2018, along with delay statement.
- (3) F. No.305-03/2018-QoS, dated the 31st July, 2018, publishing the Standards of Quality of Service of Basic Telephone Service (Wire line) and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (Sixth Amendment) Regulations, 2018.
- (4) F. No.416-2/2018-NSL-I, dated the 28th November, 2018, publishing the International Telecommunication Cable Landing Stations Access Facilitation Charges and Co-location Charges (Amendment) Regulations, 2018.

7. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications), under sub-section (5) of Section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and sub-section (4) of Section 10 of the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933:—

- (1) G.S.R. 996 (E), dated the 5th October, 2018, publishing the Use of Very Low Power Radio Frequency Devices or Equipments for Inductive Applications (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Amendment Rules, 2018.
- (2) G.S.R. 1047 (E), dated the 18th October, 2018, publishing the Use of Low Power and Very Low Power Short Range Radio Frequency Devices (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Rules, 2018.
- (3) G.S.R. 1046 (E), dated the 18th October, 2018, publishing the Use of Very Low Power Ultra-wideband Devices (Exemption from Licensing Requirements) Rules, 2018.
- (4) G.S.R. 1048 (E), dated the 22nd October, 2018, publishing the Use of Wireless Access System including Radio Local Area Network in 5 GHz band (Exemption from Licensing Requirement) Rules, 2018.

8. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 23 and sub-section (3) of Section 24 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:—

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), New Delhi, for the year 2017-18, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Authority.

9. 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) Thirty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), New Delhi, for the year 2017-18, 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 Company, for the year 2017-18.

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

- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), New Delhi, for the year 2017-18, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Statement by Government accepting the above Report.

11. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Railways, under Section 199 of the Railways Act, 1989:—

- (1) G.S.R. 765 (E), dated the 10th August, 2018, publishing the Dedicated Freight Corridor Railway General Rules 2018.
- (2) G.S.R. 945 (E), dated the 1st October, 2018, publishing the Railways (Opening for Public Carriage of Passengers) Amendment Rules 2018.

12. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Railways, (Railway Board), under sub-section (3) of Section 30 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987:—

- (1) G.S.R. 1086 (E), dated the 5th November, 2018, publishing the Railway Claims Tribunal (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Services of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 2018.

- (2) G.S.R. 1136 (E), dated the 26th November, 2018, publishing the Railway Claims Tribunal (Procedure) Second Amendment Rules, 2018.
- (3) G.S.R. 816 (E), dated the 28th August, 2018, publishing the Railway Claims Tribunal (Procedure) Amendment Rules, 2018.

13. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Railways, (Railway Board), Notification No. G.S.R. 1067 (E), dated the 25th October, 2018, publishing the Railway Protection Force (Second Amendment) Rules, 2018, under sub-section (3) of Section 21 of the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.

14. 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 Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), New Delhi, for the year 2017-18, 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) Second Annual Report and Accounts of the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL), New Delhi, for the year 2017-18, together with Auditors' 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.
- (iii) (a) Twenty-eighth Annual Report and Accounts of the Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. (KRCL), Navi Mumbai, for the year 2017-18, 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.
- (iv) (a) Forty-fourth Annual Report and Accounts of the RITES Limited, Delhi, for the year 2017-18, 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.

- (v) (a) Forty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the IRCON International Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2017-18, 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.
 - (vi) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), New Delhi, for the year 2017-18, 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.
 - (vii) (a) Forty-second Annual Report and Accounts of the Braithwaite & Company Ltd. (BCL), Kolkata, for the year 2017-18, 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.
 - (viii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Limited (MRVC), Mumbai, for the year 2017-18, 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.
15. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—
- (a) Annual Report and Accounts of Madhepura Electric Locomotive Private Limited (MELPL), New Delhi, for the year 2017-18, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
 - (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Company.
16. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare) Notification No. G.S.R. 567 (E), dated the 15th June, 2018, publishing Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Rules, 2018, under sub-section (3) of Section 124 of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002.

17. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare), issued under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the Destructive Insects & Pests Act, 1914:—

- (1) S.O. No. 3998 (E) dated the 17th August, 2018, publishing the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Sixth Amendment) Order, 2018.
- (2) S.O. No. 5158 (E) dated the 5th October, 2018, publishing the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Seventh Amendment) Order, 2018.

18. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare), under Section 4D of the Destructive Insects & Pests Act, 1914:—

- (1) S.O. No. 5280 (E), dated the 15th October, 2018, prohibiting with effect from the date of publication of this notification, movement of seed potato from Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir to all other states/UT of India due to presence of Potato Cyst Nematode.
- (2) S.O. No. 5642 (E), dated the 2nd November, 2018, prohibiting with effect from the date of publication of this notification, movement of seed potato from districts of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, mentioned therein, to all other states/UT of India due to presence of Potato Cyst Nematode.

19. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare), under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

- (1) S.O. 3720 (E), dated the 30th July, 2018, publishing the Fertiliser (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) Fourth Amendment Order, 2018.
- (2) S.O. 5887 (E), dated the 1st December, 2018, publishing the Fertiliser (Inorganic, Organic or Mixed) (Control) (Fifth) Amendment Order, 2018.

20. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (4) of Section 15 and Section 17 of the Coconut Development Act, 1979:—

- (a) Annual Report of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, Kerala, for the year 2017-18.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, Kerala, for the year 2017-18, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.

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

- (i) (a) Annual Report of the National Institute of Plant Health Management, (NIPHM), Hyderabad, for the year 2017-18.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Plant Health Management, (NIPHM), Hyderabad, for the year 2017-18, and the Audit Report thereon.
- (c) Review by Government on the working of the above Institute.
- (ii) (a) Annual Report of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, for the year 2017-18.
- (b) Annual Accounts of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad, for the year 2017-18, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (c) Review by Government on the Annual Report and Annual Accounts of the above Institute.
- (iii) (a) Annual Report and Accounts of the National Horticulture Board, Gurugram, Haryana, for the year 2017-18, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.
- (b) Review by Government on the working of the above Board.

22. 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 Section 40 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016:—

- (1) F. No. BS/11/10/2018, dated the 29th August, 2018, publishing the Bureau of Indian Standards (Powers and Duties of Director General) Regulations, 2018.

- (2) F. No. BS/11/04/2018, dated the 12th October, 2018, amending Notification F. No. BS/11/04/2018, dated the 7th June, 2018, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (3) F. No. BS/11/05/2018, dated the 12th October, 2018, amending Notification F. No. BS/11/05/2018, dated the 14th June, 2018, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (4) F. NO. BS/11/11/2018, dated the 12th October, 2018, amending Notification F. No. BS/11/11/2018, dated the 4th June, 2018, to substitute certain entries in the original Notification.
- (5) G.S.R. 1090 (E), dated the 6th November, 2018, publishing the Bureau of Indian Standards (Amendment) Rules, 2018.
- (6) G.S.R. 1132 (E), dated the 20th November, 2018, publishing Corrigendum to Notification No. G.S.R. 1090 (E), dated the 6th November, 2018.

23. A copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs), Notification No. G.S.R. 898 (E), dated the 20th September, 2018, publishing the Consumer Protection (twenty second Amendment) Rules, 2018, under sub-section (1) of Section 31 of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

24. 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. 865 (E), dated the 12th September, 2018, publishing the Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (Conditions of service of the Officers and other Employees) (Amendment) Regulations, 2018, under Section 52 of the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007.

25. 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. 885 (E), dated the 17th September, 2018, publishing the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Rules, 2018, under sub-section (3) of Section 9 of the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982.

26. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers, under sub-section (11) of Section 31 of the Warehousing Corporation Act, 1962: —

- (a) Sixty-first Annual Report and Accounts of the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC), New Delhi, for the year 2017-18, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

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

11-07 a.m.

4. Messages from Lok Sabha — Reported and Government Bill Laid on the Table

I. Secretary-General reported to the House, two messages from Lok Sabha informing Rajya Sabha that the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th December, 2018:—

(i) adopted the following motions:—

- (1) That this House do suspend para 3 of the Motion adopted by the House on 22nd July, 2014 in its application to the Motion for extension of the term of office of the present members of the Committee on the Welfare of Other Backward Classes (2018-19).
- (2) That this House do extend the term of office of the present members of the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes (2018-19) from Lok Sabha upto the last day of the tenure of the present Lok Sabha.
- (3) That this House do intimate to Rajya Sabha that the term of office of present members of the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes (2018-19) from Lok Sabha has been extended upto the last day of the tenure of the present Lok Sabha and do agree to extension of the tenure of the present members of Rajya Sabha on the Committee accordingly; and

(ii) passed the Consumer Protection Bill, 2018.

II. A copy of the Consumer Protection Bill, 2018, as passed by Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table.

11-09 a.m.

5. Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture

Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah presented the following Reports (in English and Hindi) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture:—

- (i) Two Hundred Sixty Eighth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations of the Committee contained in its Two Hundred Fifty Sixth Report on “Issues Related to Improving Consumers’ Satisfaction of Airlines”;
- (ii) Two Hundred Sixty Ninth Report on “Cargo Handling at the Major Ports”;
- (iii) Two Hundred Seventieth Report on “Development of Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir”; and
- (iv) Two Hundred Seventy First Report on “Fellowships, Scholarships, Grants, Pensions and Schemes administered by the Ministry of Culture”.

6. Reports of the Public Accounts Committee

Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita laid on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Public Accounts Committee (2018-19):—

- (i) One Hundred Thirty-second Report on the subject “Irregularities in procurement of goods and services”, “Award of work to non-existent firms”, “Unrealised VAT refund and “Excess payment of departmental charges”;
- (ii) One Hundred Thirty-third Report on the subject “Preparedness for Implementation of National Food Security Act, 2013”;
- (iii) One Hundred Thirty-fourth Report on the subject “Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana”; and
- (iv) One Hundred Thirty-fifth Report on the subject “Acquisition and Development of land by the Delhi Development Authority”.

7. Statements of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture

Shri Ram Nath Thakur laid on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the Statements showing further action taken by the Government on the following Reports:—

- (i) Forty-first Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-fourth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on the Subject 'Steps taken to Bridge the Gap Between the Demand and Availability of Fodder through Sub-Mission on Fodder and Feed Development' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries);
- (ii) Forty-fourth Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-seventh Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries);
- (iii) Fifty-seventh Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fifty-first Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Variance in Cost and Quality of Agricultural Tools and Implements Being Provided to the Farmers Under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) and Problems Being Faced by the Farmers Due to Imported Power Tillers - A Review' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare); and
- (iv) Sixty-first Report on the action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Forty-ninth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2018-19)' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries).

11-10 a.m.

8. Leave of Absence

Prof. Jogen Chowdhury (West Bengal) was granted leave of absence from the sittings of the House, from the 11th of December, 2018 to the 8th of January, 2019, during the current (247th) Session.

11-11 a.m.

9. Statements by Ministers

1. Shri Parshottam Rupala, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj laid on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Thirty-ninth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on "Comprehensive Agriculture Research based on Geographical Conditions and impact of climatic changes to ensure Food Security in the country", pertaining to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education.

2. Rao Inderjit Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Planning and Minister of State 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 Forty-third Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers on Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

3. Shri Vijay Goel, Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, laid on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Sixty-first Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

4. 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 Twenty-first Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways on "New Railway Catering Policy 2017".

5. Shrimati Krishna Raj, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, laid on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) regarding Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Forty-ninth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2018-19) pertaining to the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

11-13 a.m.

10. Statement regarding Government Business

Shri Vijay Goel, Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, made a statement regarding Government Business for the remaining part of the Session.

11-16 a.m.

11. Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2018-19

Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance and Minister of Corporate Affairs, laid on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants, 2018-19 (December, 2018).

⁹11-20 a.m.

The House adjourned and re-assembled at 2-30 p.m.

12. Starred Questions

Answers to Starred Question Nos. 121 to 135 were laid on the Table.

Answers to Starred Question Nos. 106 to 120 put down in the List of Questions for oral answers for December 20, 2018, were also laid on the Table.

13. Unstarred Questions

Answers to Unstarred Question Nos. 1281 to 1440 were laid on the Table.

⁹ From 11-18 a.m. to 11-20 a.m., some points were raised.

Answers to Unstarred Question Nos. 1121 to 1280 put down in the List of Questions for written answers for December 20, 2018, were also laid on the Table.

2-30 p.m.

14. Message from Lok Sabha — Reported

Secretary-General reported to the House, a message from Lok Sabha informing Rajya Sabha that the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th December, 2018, had agreed without any amendment to the National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities (Amendment) Bill, 2018, which was passed by Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 12th December, 2018.

2-44 p.m.

15. Private Members' Resolution — Under Consideration

Further discussion on the following Resolution moved by Shri Tiruchi Siva on the 10th August, 2018, continued:—

"Having regard to the fact that:—

- (i) according to the Census of 2011, the population of widows in India is 4,32,61,278 which accounts for 7.37 percent of the female population in India, which is the largest population of widows in the entire world;
- (ii) widowhood in India is not an ideal social condition and remarriage of widows is a rare phenomenon as widows in India face problems on economic, social, legal and health fronts;
- (iii) most of the widowed women do not have any formal training or education and as a result they are not able to find any employment to earn their livelihood and the conditions are worse for those widows who belong to the unorganised sector, which constitutes 70 percent of India's population;
- (iv) customs in the Indian society are still engrained in age old practices where death of the husband is a social phenomenon in

² From 2-31 p.m. to 2-44 p.m., some points were raised.

the society which affects every aspect of the life of the widow and many of them suffer a social death;

- (v) the old structures of joint family are being transformed into new structures of nuclear family which are not able to support the widows as around 72 percent of the female population above the age of 60 years is dependent population;
- (vi) around 60 percent of the population of widows is in the age group of 70-74 years, who require appropriate health care facilities, but contrary to that healthcare of widows is considered as a taboo and they do not have access to basic healthcare;
- (vii) widows are given property rights under the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, but most widows are unaware of these rights and they suffer from the conflicts for the inheritance of property;
- (viii) a study conducted by the National Commission for Women in 2016 on the condition of widows in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal stated that 84 percent of women who live in *Swadhar Greh* homes had no access to any family property and 15 percent had no access because their children or other family members had taken away the property;
- (ix) religious places like Vrindavan, Mathura, Varanasi, etc., have become home for a large number of destitute widows from all around the country who have been left by their kiths and kins and are solely dependent on the state for their food and shelter and do not have any means of livelihood;
- (x) currently the Central Government does not have any specific scheme for the welfare of widows except for the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme whereas *Swadhar Greh* Scheme and Short Stay Home Scheme are not specifically meant for widows and cater to all categories of destitute women, and
- (xi) there is no specific law or scheme addressing needs of the widows in the country, despite the fact that it has the largest population of widows in the entire world which must be recognised as a special category of destitute women, as they suffer from mental trauma and social pressures,

this House urges upon the Government to -

- (a) bring a suitable legislation for the welfare of the widows in the country, which is able to address their social security needs;
- (b) extend adequate financial assistance at par with current living standards to the destitute widows;
- (c) frame a policy that enables widows to get appropriate legal aid and health care;
- (d) initiate awareness programmes to make people more sensitive to the social pressures faced by widows in the country, and
- (e) conduct a relevant study regarding the condition of the widows in the country and use the study report to take necessary steps for their welfare."

2-44 p.m.

The following Members took part in the discussion:—

- | | | |
|------------|----|---|
| 2-44 p.m. | 1. | Shri Ravi Prakash Verma |
| *2-54 p.m. | 2. | Dr. Virendra Kumar, <i>Minister of State in the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Minority Affairs.</i> |
- (Speech unfinished)*

The discussion was not concluded.

(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, displayed placards, shouted slogans and persistently and willfully obstructed the proceedings of the House, the Chair adjourned the House for the day:—

1. *Shri A. Navaneethakrishnan*
2. *Shri S. R. Balasubramoniyam*
3. *Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth*
4. *Shri S. Muthukaruppan*
5. *Shri K.R. Arjunan*
6. *Shri N. Gokulakrishnan*
7. *Shri A. Vijayakumar*
8. *Shri A.K. Selvaraj*

* From 2-50 p.m. to 2-54 p.m., some points were raised.

9. *Shri R. Vaithilingam*
10. *Shri Rajmani Patel*
11. *Shri Sanjay Singh*
12. *Shri Narain Dass Gupta*
13. *Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta*

2-55 p.m.

The House adjourned till 11-00 a.m. on Thursday, the 27th December, 2018.

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General