

# RAJYA SABHA

---

## LIST OF BUSINESS

Friday, August 11, 2017

11 A.M.

---

### #QUESTIONS

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

---

### STATEMENT BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWER TO QUESTION

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN to lay on the Table, a Statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the answer to Unstarred Question 781 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2017, regarding 'Representation against circular of Railway Board'.

---

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

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS (RESOLUTIONS)

1. SHRI D. RAJA to move the following Resolution:—

“Having regard to the fact that:—

- (i) the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Castes (OBCs) have been provided with reservation in jobs in the Government on the basis of Constitutional and statutory provisions to fulfill the vision of the framers of the Constitution for addressing the problems of discrimination, inequality and deprivation caused by castes, which in the words of Dr. Ambedkar constituted "ascending order of reverence and descending order of contempt";
- (ii) the Government jobs are now shrinking because of privatization and most of the jobs in the Government are contractual in nature for which reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs is not applicable and, therefore, reservation is being taken away through backdoor;
- (iii) in the market driven economy where corporate sector is the dominant engine of economic growth, most of the employment opportunities are now available in the private sector where reservation is not applicable;
- (iv) the Constitutional provision of positive discrimination in favour of Scheduled Castes and the deprived sections of society and exploited castes and tribes are being negated because of neo-liberal policies at the heart of which remain the market forces and withdrawal of the State from many key sectors and massive disinvestment of the public sector enterprises is causing lack of employment opportunities in the public sector enterprises; and

---

# At 12 Noon.

- (v) there is greater and urgent need to extend the reservation for SCs and STs and OBCs to the private sector in tune with the objectives and Constitutionally enshrined provisions in this regard and in tune with the pronouncements of the former President of India, Late Shri K.R. Narayanan in his Republic Day eve speech in 2002 that *"Indeed in the present economic system and of the future, it is necessary for the private sector to adopt social policies that are progressive and more egalitarian for these deprived classes to be uplifted from their state of deprivation and inequality and given the rights of citizens and civilized human beings. This is not to ask the private enterprise to accept socialism, but to initiate something like the diversity bill and the affirmative action that a capitalist country like the US has adopted and is implementing"*,

this House urges upon the Government to extend reservation of jobs for SCs, STs and OBCs in the private sector on the pattern of reservations in the Government sector."

2. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY to move the following Resolution:—

"Having regard to the fact that:—

- (i) India requires speedy economic development and higher growth rate to make it among the few large economies in the world with propitious economic outlook;
- (ii) infrastructure development is one of the key components for industrial development and engine of growth;
- (iii) road network is one of the essential parameters for economic development and communication;
- (iv) economic downturn seen in the last few years caused reduction in the growth of traffic and lower revenue realization for Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) road projects; and
- (v) reduced revenue realization adversely affected debt service concessionaires and caused widespread default in debt accounts;

this House urges upon the Government-

- (a) to take immediate and concrete steps to remove all bottlenecks in the awarding of road projects under BOT and EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction);
- (b) to initiate measures to restore market confidence and to ensure that project execution does not suffer owing to cash flow constraints, rescheduling of premium payment under BOT projects;
- (c) to initiate early settlement of disputes and find amicable solutions since heavy amount is involved and the road projects are virtually stalled; and
- (d) to extend re-finance/soft loan to the operators in the road sector, at lower rate of interest to revive the infrastructure industry."

3. SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV to move the following Resolution:—

"Having regard to the fact that:—

- (i) in the absence of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, there is hardly any year without election in the country which is highly time-consuming and monumental wastage of financial, manpower and other resources;

- (ii) separate elections affect stability, governance, administration and stands as hurdle in attending to peoples' grievances simultaneously bringing down economic growth because of enforcement of Model Code of Conduct during elections;
- (iii) the Election Commission of India and the State Election Commissions have separate electoral rolls which result in duplication of voters, electoral malpractices resulting in considerable expenditure in holding this democratic exercise;
- (iv) many defence personnel, certain categories of Government employees, displaced Kashmiri Hindus, etc., are deprived to exercise their right to franchise due to their geographical locations;
- (v) in the absence of public funding, which otherwise is being allowed in many countries, there is huge flow of black money into the electoral system which is also paving the way for entry of unscrupulous elements into electoral politics;
- (vi) even though Election Commission puts limit on campaign expenditure, depending upon the nature of election, such ceilings practically remain only on paper and the actual cost of running an election campaign is often much higher than the prescribed limit;
- (vii) the the Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Act, 2003, aims to control expenditure of every candidate in election, has little impact at the ground level since the existing system lacks transparency;
- (viii) lack of strong legislative backing with effective implementation machinery and absence of legally acceptable public funds resulting in leaving candidates to fend for themselves during each election without any steady support to ensure continuation of their respective campaigns which otherwise has the obvious consequence of proliferation of black money into politics and the institutionalization of corruption;
- (ix) the absence of effective measures to ensure transparency and accountability in funding of political parties exacerbates present situation by creating authoritarian power structures, which are hard to relinquish for those who enjoy their benefits and tend to impose themselves in the scheme of national politics as well; and
- (x) the high cost of elections prevents those with modest financial resources from being competitive in elections resulting inevitably in biased policy decisions,

this House urges upon the Government to -

- (a) amend the election and other related laws forthwith to hold Lok Sabha and Assembly elections simultaneously which gives a period of clear five years to the incumbent Government to focus on governance;
- (b) amend laws and rules in such manner which facilitate reforms in electoral cycle in order to limit election expenditure and avoid wastage of time in electioneering;
- (c) ask Election Commission to have one single electoral roll in the country to weed out duplicate voters, check electoral malpractices and bring down the cost of holding the democratic exercise;
- (d) amend the Constitution and other relevant Acts and rules to introduce e-ballot/ e-voting system in order to enable all voters, who may be away from their places of residence for different reasons, to exercise their right to franchise online;

- (e) implement State funding of elections;
- (f) enact or suitably amend laws to regulate utilization of funds by political parties;
- (g) take steps for strengthening democracy, transparency in political funding and other necessary reforms;
- (h) link Aadhaar Number with Election Card issued to every eligible citizen of the country; and
- (i) permit NRIs and Indians staying abroad to cast their vote during elections."

NEW DELHI;  
August 8, 2017.

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,  
*Secretary-General.*