

# RAJYA SABHA

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## LIST OF BUSINESS

Friday, April 6, 2018

11 A.M.

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### #QUESTIONS

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

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

### PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS (RESOLUTIONS)

1. 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 to-

- (a) take immediate and concrete steps to remove all bottlenecks in awarding of road projects under BOT and EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction);
- (b) 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) initiate early settlement of disputes and find amicable solutions since heavy amount is involved and the road projects are slowed down; and
- (d) extend re-finance/soft loan to the operators in the infrastructure projects, at lower rate of interest, to revive the sagging economy and to boost the GDP growth.”

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# At 12 Noon.

2. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA to move the following Resolution:—

"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 considered as a social taboo 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 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 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 in 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;
- (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; and
- (f) ensure a decent and dignified life for widows in the society."

NEW DELHI;  
April 3, 2018.

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,  
*Secretary-General.*