

RAJYA SABHA

LIST OF BUSINESS

Friday, July 27, 2018

11 A.M.

#QUESTIONS

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

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS (RESOLUTIONS)

1. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO to move the following Resolution:—

"Having regard to the fact that:—

- (i) the Parliament has enacted the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 bifurcating erstwhile State of Andhra Pradesh into States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana;
- (ii) the then Union Government having realized the loss occurred to the successor State of Andhra Pradesh due to bifurcation gave several assurances through the then Prime Minister on the floor of the Rajya Sabha on 20.02.2014 apart from making several provisions in the Act for the continued prosperity of the State regarding-
 - (a) conferring Special Category status to Andhra Pradesh for a period of 5 years;
 - (b) executing and completing the Polavaram National Irrigation Project by Central Government on expedient public interest by obtaining all required clearances including the cost of resettlement and rehabilitation works;
 - (c) establishing a separate Railway Zone for the State of Andhra Pradesh;
 - (d) development of a major Port at Dugarajapatnam in phases and Phase I to be completed by end of 2018;
 - (e) establishing an Integrated Steel Plant at YSR Kadapa;
 - (f) exclusive tax incentives for economic development and special development package for backward North Coastal and Rayalaseema districts on the lines of Koraput-Balangir-Kalahandi region;
 - (g) compensating the resource gap occurred to the State during 02.06.2014 to 31.03.2015; and

At 12 Noon.

- (h) financial assistance to the State for development of Capital City and essential infrastructure facilities including Secretariat, Assembly, High Court, etc;
- (iii) the Government of India is yet to implement several provisions of the Act even after 4 years of passing of the Act;
- (iv) the Government of India has not extended the Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh citing that after 14th Finance Commission recommendations, the concept of Special category status ceases to exist;
- (v) the Central Government has announced a Special Package to Andhra Pradesh on 08.09.2016 but the benefits under the package have not been given to the State till date;
- (vi) no tax incentives or tax concessions were announced for the State to promote industrialization in the State and thus to promote employment and resources though other Special Category States are enjoying this benefit even in the GST regime;
- (vii) the Polavaram National Irrigation Project is yet to be executed as per the provisions of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act as the Government has-
 - (a) given the responsibility of execution of the project to the State Government stating that as the State is keen to execute the project it has agreed to the request of the State;
 - (b) restricted its financial liability on the project to the rates prevailing as on 01.04.2014 contrary to the provisions of the Act;
 - (c) taken a decision that the Centre will not bear the cost escalation on the project beyond 01.04.2014 due to time and cost overrun thus burdening the finances of the economically crippled State;
 - (d) put several conditions while releasing the Grant to the State, which are detrimental to the interest of the State;
 - (e) released nominal funds to the States over a period of 4 years for a project which requires Rs.58000 crores as per estimates prepared by the State and 80 per cent Resettlement and Rehabilitation work is still pending;
 - (f) not resolved ambiguity prevailing over the sanction of funds, expenditure already incurred and completion of the project between State and Central Government;
- (viii) a separate railway zone is yet to be established for the State and consultation process is still going on even after 4 years;
- (ix) the works relating to major port at Dugarajapatnam and Steel Plant at Kodapa are yet to commence, as the Government seems to have made up its opinion that they are not economically feasible;
- (x) exclusive tax incentives have not been announced for economic development and to promote industrial development of the State, except granting nominal enhanced investment allowance and accelerated depreciation allowance to the backward districts of the State;

- (xi) nominal funds of Rs. 50 crore per annum were given to backward districts instead of announcing KBK type special development package as promised;
- (xii) only 25 per cent out of total funds claimed by the State towards filling up of resource gap for the period 02.06.2014 to 31.03.2015 has been released;
- (xiii) a reasonable solution has not been made out for the successor States in apportioning the Schedule IX and Schedule X Institutions till date; and
- (xiv) due to non-implementation of provisions of the Act and also non-fulfillment of the assurances given by the then Prime Minister on the floor of the House even after the lapse of four years, the State of Andhra Pradesh is suffering from severe resource crisis;

this House therefore, urges upon the Government to-

- (a) immediately confer Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh for a period of 5 years;
- (b) bear the entire cost of Polavaram National Irrigation Project including cost escalations due to time and cost overruns on Land Acquisitions, Rehabilitation and Resettlement works without imposing any conditions and complete it at least by 2019;
- (c) establish a separate Railway Zone for the State immediately;
- (d) commence the work relating to Dugarajapatnam Port immediately;
- (e) establish Integrated Steel Plant at YSR Kadapa immediately;
- (f) announce exclusive tax incentives and tax concessions to Andhra Pradesh to promote industrialization and economic growth of the State;
- (g) announce Special Development Package for Rayalaseema and North Coastal Districts on the lines of Koraput-Balangir- Kalahandi region;
- (h) fully release the resource gap that occurred to the state of Andhra Pradesh during 02.06.2014 to 31.03.2015; and
- (i) release Rs.32000 Crore for the development of capital city and essential infrastructure as requested by the State."

2. SHRI C.M. RAMESH to move the following Resolution:—

"Having regard to the fact that-

- (i) an integrated Steel Plant has to be established under the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014 at Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh;
- (ii) even after four years, the final report on the feasibility of Steel Plant at Kadapa is still awaited though the AP Government gave a clear plan of action for the Steel Plant at Kadapa; and
- (iii) this has aroused the emotions of the people and the youth of the State in general and Kadapa District in particular,

this House therefore urges upon the Government of India to establish immediately a modernized Steel Plant at Kadapa for the prosperity of that State."

3. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI to move the following Resolution:—

“Having regard to the fact that:

- (i) the Konkan region in Maharashtra is a coastal region, rich in biodiversity;
- (ii) the Coastal Regulation Zone rules which earlier prohibited setting up of big industries on the coast was amended in 2009 to permit setting up of such industries;
- (iii) since then, 19 thermal and nuclear power plants amounting to 35,000 MW, 56 open-cast mines and 43 private ports are in various stages of development along with a recently proposed chemical zone and the controversial mega refinery at Nanar in Ratnagiri, which is being met with stiff opposition from the local people as it will severely affect the agricultural occupation of people in a region famous for its Alphonso mangoes and cashew nuts;
- (iv) in 2011, Madhav Gadgil Committee submitted a report to Ministry of Environment and Forests stating that haphazard development had not created jobs and had instead led to destruction of livelihoods of fishermen as discharge and untreated effluents from thermal and chemical plants destroyed the water bodies and the report further noted that land use policies within the Ratnagiri Regional Development Plan were also changed to allow environmentally and socially non-sustainable activities to take place;
- (v) these developments have happened despite the fact that the area was declared eco-sensitive by the government in 2007;
- (vi) thermal discharge from proposed nuclear plants or accidental oil spills from ports will have devastating impact on the rich mangrove cover in the region and the marine life; and
- (vii) currently moratorium exist on eco-sensitive areas and areas falling under Western Ghats of Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg region and moratorium from non-western ghats area of Ratnagiri was lifted based on recommendations of the Kasturirangan report making the area vulnerable to harmful effects of large scale industrial activities,

this House urges upon the Government to-

- (a) undertake development which is people oriented, sustainable and balanced taking into consideration the regional factors and involving views and suggestions from various stakeholders especially the inhabitants of the region;
- (b) implement the Kadrekar-Pendse Committee report which had identified 43 micro hydel projects which will serve the dual purpose of power generation in an environmentally conscious manner;
- (c) give more incentives to horticulture, which is the mainstay of this region;
- (d) promote agro-tourism and other tourism activities around the beaches, backwaters and forests of Konkan in a sustainable manner

thereby creating employment opportunities for the inhabitants of the region;

- (e) implement the Madhav Gadgil Committee recommendations and as far as possible, to stop the proposed industrial activity, especially the Nanar refinery project and gradually phase out operational industrial activity; and
- (f) conduct cumulative Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) of all proposed and operational thermal, nuclear and chemical plants for assessing the actual damage to the biodiversity.”

4. SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH to move the following Resolution:—

"Having regard to the fact that:-

- (i) the present staggering demographic situation makes Uttar Pradesh India's most populous State with a population of over 20 crore;
- (ii) the projected demographic situation is likely to see its population almost double by the middle of this century;
- (iii) there are enormous complexities in governing a State like Uttar Pradesh with 75 districts and over 800 blocks, 52,000 gram panchayats and one lakh villages;
- (iv) the disparities have persisted in the development of social and physical infrastructure across the well-defined ecological and cultural regions of the state;
- (v) the advantages in administering smaller states have been demonstrated in practice; and
- (vi) debates had taken place in the 1950s on the subject in the context of States' reorganisation and most recently the State Assembly of Uttar Pradesh had passed a resolution on the subject in November 2011;

this House urges the Government to invoke Articles 3 and 4 of the Constitution to reorganize the State of Uttar Pradesh into four new States for more effective governance and to give a boost to the accelerated development of some of the poorest and backward parts of the country."

5. 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 the 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 virtually stalled; and
- (d) extend re-finance/soft loan to the operators in the road sector, at lower rate of interest, to revive the infrastructure industry.”

NEW DELHI;
July 24, 2018.

DESH DEEPAK VERMA,
Secretary-General.