

RAJYA SABHA

***SUPPLEMENT**

TO

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Tuesday, February 07, 2017/ Magha 18, 1938 (Saka)

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS -

Contd.

SHRI ABDUL WAHAB: In the President's Address, everything was very clear. It included all the programmes which were introduced by our hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi. My only regret is that after demonetisation whatever money came back to the exchequer or the RBI is not known till today. Even the RBI does not know what is happening. A lot of money is given for agricultural sector. I appreciate that. But how are they going to disburse this money through NABARD? My concern is about Kerala. The cooperative banks are not functioning because of RBI's rules. My request to them, is this. Just activate the cooperative banks, so that whatever money is there, it reaches the needy farmers. The demonetization did not happen according to vision or expectation of the Government. Whatever has happened that was not supposed to happen in any hospital. There is need to conduct an inquiry by a Parliamentary panel in this regard.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): Before our Government came to power the scarcity of coal was a routine affair.

*This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.

Our Government gave the rate for coal transport without corruption and increased the coal supply. Now there is no corruption in the supply of coal. Earlier farmers always use to agitate for the scarcity of urea. Now because of neem coating they require ten per cent less fertilizers and get 10 per cent more crop. Now the black marketing of subsidized urea has stopped. So all such moves are an example of good governance of this Government.

After 50 days of demonetization, there is no queue now. The poor people in the country are saying that it is a good step. Various defence projects were held up for years together, between 2004 and 2014. We gave general approval for the entire defence infrastructure, defence Road projects within 100 KMs of Line of Actual Control. 7,000 KMs of border roads proposed by the Army and the ITBP were all cleared. We took one decision to permit defence infrastructure projects for the security of the country. We bargained in the public interest and decreased the price of LED bulb from rupees 300 to rupees 75 apiece. 42 per cent increase in minimum wages is a historical decision. We are bringing transparency in payment of wages. Today, the workers have been provided a Unique ID Number, so that they may get 100 per cent payment. This time 'Padma Shri' has been awarded to the poor, common people for years of social service with commitment. These are simple but very important steps which show the change in the style of governance. People have witnessed these changes with an honest, transparent Government. If rupees fifty thousand crores are saved annually on account of DBT, it is a big advantage for the country, it is justice with the poor. We must remain with the honest; we must commit ourselves to the glory of the nation, to the real progress of the poor.

SHRI RIPUN BORA: I do not find anything to be complimented in the President's Address. According to the ground reality, there is nothing. It was mentioned that three crores of toilets have been constructed all over the country. I don't know where they have been built, no toilets have been constructed in Assam. It was told that demonetization would completely wipe out the black money from our country, but, out of the demonetised amount of Rs. 16 lakh crores,

only Rs.610 crores have been discovered as illegal money. Where is the black money? It is very surprising to note that nowhere it is mentioned that 135 innocent persons died while they were in queue waiting for their hard-earned money. It is very surprising that neither the Prime Minister nor the President in his Address, has mentioned anywhere the sympathy for the people who died. In our State Assam, not a single pole, not a single line has been electrified under Deen Dayal Gram Jyoti Yojana. The President has highly spoken about the schemes of Government like Digital India, Make in India, Start-up India, etc. why these names are in English. The poor people, the common people cannot pronounce the name of these schemes, they don't know what is their meaning. Nowhere in the President's Address there is any scheme for the common people, poor people. There is no scheme for alleviation of poverty. It has been said that demonetization will curb terrorist activities. But, what happened in Assam, there was a series of bomb blasts at eight places one by one.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE): The onus lies on the opposition to support the works being undertaken by the Government. The Government has provided at least rupees 490 crores for us through 'Start-up India'. The Prime Minister has stated that the provision of reservation for the dalits, adivasis, and other backward classes will not be taken back at any cost. Rather, I have, many times, said that all the castes should get share in reservation. There are poor people in other castes also. Today, every society is making such demand as every society is having its own number of economically backward class people. This is an issue, so, there should be amendment in the Constitution. This issue of reservation should also be considered by the Parliament.

Discussion not concluded.

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Secretary-General.

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ERRATA TO THE SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE DATED 7th

February, 2017

Page No.	Line No.	Correction
74	7	Add "of the Government" after "policies".