

RAJYA SABHA

***SUPPLEMENT**

TO

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, February 08, 2017/ Magha 19, 1938 (Saka)

**MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S
ADDRESS -*Contd.***

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Efforts were made to give impetus to financial inclusion in the country. There are 27 crore Jan Dhan accounts in the country. Poorest of the poor have been given access to zero balance accounts. There is direct transfer of government assistance into the accounts of the poor. Government constituted the SIT as per honourable Supreme Court's decision. There was FATCA agreement with America and Switzerland for maximum assistance from foreign countries. Government made assessment of foreign assets of people and registered criminal cases wherever it was possible. Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty was signed with Mauritius, Syprus, and Singapore to avoid round tripping of money. Income Disclosure Scheme for disclosure of black money was launched and it was very successful. Benami law was an ineffective law. It was amended in Parliament and was made operative. Black money had become a way of life. We are trying to eradicate it. Cash is a facilitator of a lot of vices as far as the economy is

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concerned. Almost all the countries in the world have made an effort to move in the direction of a less-cash economy.

Cash is a great enabler of resources as far as terrorism is concerned. Hence, Government has taken effective steps to shrink usage of cash. Major telecom companies are in the process of setting up payments banking due to a decision taken by the RBI in 2015. Post offices of the country have been issued licenses to run as payment Banks. The poor of the country is much progressive with regard to usage of credit cards. Payment of wages to workers either through cheque or by the digital mode will enable them in getting benefits of social sector schemes. The whole process initiated on 8th of November has catalysed introduction of Aadhaar-based technologies and e-wallets. Hence, this is a methodology by which we are switching over to various non-cash methods.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI NARENDRA MODI), replying to the discussion, said: I am very obliged to all of you. I am also thankful to honourable Members who have put up the issues here. We can not deny the fact that corruption and black money have deepened their roots in our economy, social system. Therefore, the fight against it is not a political fight. This fight is not for creating troubles for any political party and there is no reason to think so. It is also a fact that the parallel economy has affected the poor the most. The poor are deprived of their rights and the middle class are exploited. It is not so that efforts would not have been made earlier but more efforts are needed in this regard. The data publicised regarding the counterfeit notes are of those currency notes which have reached to the banks, its account has been kept. Such system is maintained that most of the fake currency notes may never reach up to the bank. These are also used to promote terrorism, naxalism. Post demonetization whatever incidents of looting the banks and taking away the new notes have occurred, these have taken place in Jammu and Kashmir as under the circumstances prevailing regarding the fake currencies they were facing difficulties in their daily activities. Those currency notes were recovered from the terrorists who were killed just after few days of looting of bank. The honest people will not be

empowered till the dishonest people are not treated strictly. Many years before a Wanchu Committee was constituted and this committee had given its report regarding the financial needs of demonetization at the time when Smt. Indira Gandhi was in power. Today, black money, terrorist organizations, fake note business, business of drugs, Hawala all these things have spread in various spheres of life, it has become pervasive. Fake currencies got neutralized the moment decision of demonetization was taken on 8th of November. A person involved in a large business of fake currency had to commit suicide in the enemy country. More than 700 Maoists surrendered in our country within a span of 30-40 days- this has happened for the first time. And this process is still continuing. This is also true that availability of money is essential in a formal system. Now, when such a large amount of currency has reached to the banks, it is natural that banks will grow in their capacity to provide money to common men. It has happened for the very first time in our country that the banks have altogether reduced their interest rate. The unorganized workers must get security regarding their wages. It is a reality that whatever is promised is not provided accordingly. We are familiar with many such shortcomings, so, if we raise such a system, it will benefit the workers. A comprehensive security for the workers would be possible on this account and we are making efforts in this direction. I would like to cite an example of tea gardens of Assam. The Government there took some initiative and on account of it the labourers of these tea gardens started to get full wages and there business got secured in that region. It is happening because there is no parallel to it in the world. Such a huge and comprehensive decision has never been taken anywhere in the world. Therefore, the economists around the world do not have any yardstick to measure this. This may become a huge case study for the economists, the universities throughout the world and what a great decision has been taken by India, the sociologists would surely make a study of it after this demonetization. For the first time, a horizontal divide has emerged in the country.

Generally, when Government takes any decision, the people agitate against the Government of the day. But this is the first incident where some people were on the other side, but, the

Government and the people were hand in hand. We can say with pride before the world that there are 125 crore such people in the country, they may be illiterate, they might not have got education, as you were describing, despite all these, are pinning and making efforts to win over their evils. It is a matter of pride that there are such people, such citizens in the country who are ready to face difficulties in order to fight against their evils and they are searching ways to come out of the evils. We are a lot who work while respecting our democracy but we will never accept defeat in any form. The people of our country are so committed to fight against the evil inside that they did not let happen any untoward incident despite so many difficulties. We should portray this ability of Indian people before the entire world with pride. Only then the world would be able to understand how we think. People generally consider that taking populist steps, taking decisions with short term goals in mind become the nature of democracy. Therefore it takes sometime to comprehend such a huge decision. Nobody says that there is a digital system in every nook and corner of India. Here the question is, where there is possibility to change the mindset, whether we can do it or not. We should make some positive contributions, this is an issue of behaviour change.

The meaning of 'Cashless' in the country is gradually taking forward the society in the direction of such system of payment. Even today, many big, prosperous countries in the world conduct their elections by printing ballot paper and stamping votes. The country which is considered illiterate, that India is the biggest democracy and it casts its vote by pressing button. The day when this system of pressing button to vote came, who would have imagined that the poorest people of our country could adopt such technology. If we feel that this path itself is wrong, then it is right, but to leave it just for inconveniences, difficulties is not right at all. The BHIM App which has been developed does not involve even a penny. Transactions are being made through it without any cost. Not a single rupee of commission is given to any bank. We should also make people aware in our respective regions to promote it and we should go ahead in this direction.

Today 60 to 70 per cent tickets in railways are being booked online and if tickets are get cancelled, the money is being returned online. There are many such families who are making the payment of their electricity bills through their mobile phones. If this facility is provided scientifically, technologically, it is a good thing. If there is any loophole in this technology it must be rectified. 21 Crore people have been provided RuPay Card with Jan Dhan Accounts in this country. You cannot imagine its power. It has brought a change even in the life of common man of the society. It arouses a new self confidence. Direct Benefit Transfer has brought massive benefits. We have been able to save approximately Rs. 50 thousand crores so far through it. The Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme has curbed leakage, a huge loot of country's funds by the middlemen.

Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme has also got benefit out of it. More efforts should be made for promoting digital payments and internet banking. The POS machines are being increased. People will be able to make various payments through AADHAR. We should try to adopt these schemes. We should promote the Government's BHIM app as no external agency is involved in this. After the 8th November, almost 20 percent drivers are paying toll tax through RFID tags on highways. It is saving time and fuel both. Twenty to thirty percent people are using digital currency for making payments on petrol pumps and committee under Chairmanship of Shri Chandra Babu Naidu is going to submit its final report in this regard. Government have constituted six Debt Recovery Tribunals. Government have constituted an independent Bank Board Bureau for appointments in banks. A round table conference was organised to contemplate measures to take our banking system to the global standards. We should regard the dignity of institutions like Reserve Bank of India. Such institutions should be kept away from any disputes. Reserve Bank of India has a prominent role in the functioning of economy.

The former Governor of RBI has leveled serious allegations against the previous Government in his book. This institution should be kept above the politics. In order to enhance the

powers of RBI along with making it autonomous, we have constituted a Monetary Policy Committee by amending the RBI Act. The Governor of RBI would be the Chairman of this Committee. There would be no member from the Government in this Committee. I had made an announcement from the ramparts of the Red Fort that each and every government and the Prime Minister since independence has contributed in the development of the nation. This Government has done a great job on the issue of governance. Earlier people used to stand in long queues at the houses of MPs, MLAs or Corporates for getting their documents attested. Now we have discontinued this system and introduced the self attestation system. We have discontinued the interviews for non-gazetted posts. The appointment on senior posts also are being made on merit basis.

We have repealed more than 1100 laws during last two years. We have stopped the leakages through Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme. Earlier up to two months time was being taken in registering a new company but now a new company could be registered within 24 hours. Now you could get a passport within a week. We are also moving towards converting the Postal Headquarters into passport offices. We have also brought transparency in coal-auctions. We have started GeM in the procurement process of the Government, which has been awarded with the South Asia Procurement Innovation Award by the World Bank.

We have brought transparency against the corruption with good governance along with the use of technology. This Government have started several schemes like '*Ujjwala Yojna*' for the women empowerment. We have given gas connections to almost 1 crore and 63 lakh families till now. We intend to extend this scheme to the 5 crore families. Provisions have been made to register the houses in the name of women under Prime Minister Housing Scheme. Today, 55 percent women are working under MNREGA. The women of our country are joining as entrepreneurs under '*Mudra Yojna*'. Efforts are being made to extend '*Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Antyodaya Yojna*' throughout the country. Several women centric schemes such as '*Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao*', '*Sukanya Smridhi Yojna*', '*Mudra-Yojna*' etc. are

also being implemented. Likewise, '*Misson Indrdhanush*' is being implemented for the vaccination of the children. I also appreciate the efforts being made by our Media in support of '*Swachhata Abhiyan*'.

Sanitation is our collective responsibility. In the rural areas, sanitation coverage has increased. Toilets are of special importance for our rural women. For the safety of women, we have started 'Universalisation of Women Helpline- 181' for 24 hours. Reservation for women has been fixed up to 33 per cent in the recruitment of police. Haryana have built up a network of Women Police Volunteers. We have planned to come forward with a Panic Button Technology. The Government have launched 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Beema Yojana'. The new fertilizer policy and Neem Coating have benefitted much. Due to Neem Coating, the use of urea in manufacturing of synthetic milk has lost its scope. The Government have appealed to farmers of the country to increase production of pulses. Our farmers are trading with mobile phones in Mandis. The Government have allowed 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment so that food processing industry would be benefitted and the income of our farmers increases. The Government have prepared a comprehensive plan for the empowerment of tribals under the 'Van Bandhu' Welfare Scheme. The Government have worked in the direction to strengthen the implementation of the Forest Rights Act. The Government have launched a District Mineral Foundation in Chhattisgarh so that people would not suffer with any extra burden of Budget. The Government have launched a National Rurban Mission which is going to benefit especially tribal areas. 'Swachhata' should be translated into a mass movement. We need to change our mindset.

Some of our neighbouring countries have put in great efforts for years to clean up their countries. Now they have become norms for others nations. If small countries can become successful in their mission then our country can also achieve success in '*Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*'. In order to tap great potential of our country we have launched '*Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat*' programme. Under this

programme people of different states will learn some key words of other state's language. They will also participate in interstate cultural programmes. So it is a programme to know about your own country. I would like to thank all the hon'ble members for expressing their views. I support President's Address.

All the amendments moved were either withdrawn or negatived.

The Motion of Thanks was adopted.

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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**ERRATA TO THE SUPPLEMENT TO SYNOPSIS OF
DEBATE DATED 7th February, 2017**

Page No.	Line No.	Correction
82	21	Replace "has happened that" with "happened with our colleague Late Shri E. Ahmad ji in RML Hospital".