

RAJYA SABHA

***SUPPLEMENT**

TO

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Thursday, March 16, 2017/ Phalguna 25, 1938 (Saka)

The Union Budget, 2017-18

General Discussion - *Contd.*

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to why the States are being denied the share of the revenue? Why is there a practice of increasing cess and surcharge? Why not simply increase the tax rate so that all the States get a share of the revenue? Particularly my State has been deprived of at least more than Rs. 10,000 crores, only on this account. So far as the decision of demonetization is concerned, yesterday, the Indian Express reported that there is a ten per cent drop in advance tax collections. I don't understand, when the Government wants us to use less cash, they are also charging surcharge for using credit or debit cards. This Budget has also failed to correct the increasing invasion of the State's autonomy. There are 23 crore Pan Card holders in the country but only four crores are filing their returns. A lot of people are taking PAN card because it is the only accepted ID by banks. I would request that we should put the address on the Pan card. Some special drive should also be carried out to help the tax payers with regard to tax disputes or pending dues.

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

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: I oppose these Budget proposals because it can't be called progressive. When the planning process is abolished, special plans also get abolished. But both these plans, SCSP and TSP have played a vital role in the development of SCs and STs in our country. The Finance Minister has claimed in his Budget Speech that there has been an enhancement of 35 per cent in the Budget of 2017-18 as compared to the previous year, but as per the existing norms and the SC/ST policy, Rs. 99,394 crore should have been allocated for the welfare of SCs. Only then it would have become proportionate to the SC population. Now a new method of Revenue and Capital Expenditure has been adopted under which the Plan and Non-Plan calculation is difficult. The new policies like disinvestment and downsizing of public sector undertakings are negatively affecting the job opportunities for the educated *dalit* youths. Sir, job reservation in private sector is a must and it is high time to implement this policy in the country. The Central Government and most of the State Governments are not willing to earmark sufficient amount for SC/ST development in their respective Budgets. Hence, a law should be enacted without any further delay in this regard. This Budget has not done justice to Kerala. One of the main requests of Kerala is to set up AIIMS, but this time also it has been denied. Every day the price of rubber is going down. We should protect our farmers, but the Government of India is doing nothing. For the welfare of Pravasis, it is the duty of the country to rehabilitate them.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: The prices of vegetables and consumer goods are going up day-by-day, but no steps have yet been taken by the Government. The Finance Minister has also not stated in the Budget that proper action would be taken against the black-marketers or that it will consider some bold measures so that price rise can be controlled. Lack of vision in managing food prices has led to a negative impact on the farmers and they are selling their products at low prices. Rural people are not getting the support price. A uniform procurement system should be introduced all over the country. The Government must give proper incentives to farmers. There is shortage

of fertilizers, water and coordination amongst different ministries. Despite a Health Policy, the allocation to health remain low. The crisis of medicines must be paid attention. The Budget for Defence has been increased but organizations engaged in the defence production is not being attended properly. The Government is not concerned about the competitiveness of Indian companies. This Government is focusing on reduction of the employment generation in the country. When there is no industry and no scope for increasing the business arena, how will the unemployed get the job? Even IIT engineers, have no job. They are doing some private business. The Government should come forward to create jobs for the unemployed. There is no growth in social spending, no big measures to support the struggling industries and no special provisions for the common man. The Budget was a mere accounting exercise, in both its content and its spirit.

SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: The Government is increasing its income through some strict and wise policies and increasing its work towards the interest of the people. The Government has raised the amount for MNREGA etc. to great extent. The Government has its inclination towards villages, farmers and agriculture. I request the Government that it should pay more attention towards villages. To keep up the honesty of honest people the Government should keep its promises in letter and spirit. There was an announcement of Railway Division in Gulbarga district of Karnataka, but the progress of work is very slow there. It was stated that Gulbarga and Vidarbha railway line would be connected by March end but there are no indications to start the train yet. The Government should speed up its work in this direction. The youth of the country are running after the jobs and spoiling their youth. Emphasis on skill development instead of qualification can help people in gaining work experience. I request the Government to change its policy. Concrete programmes need to be formulated in this direction. NITI Commission should evaluate all its policies. It should draw up new economic policy for the country in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance to support young people of the country in getting job as per their qualification. Government

should evaluate the sectors of health ,education and industry and should formulate an exclusive policy. I welcome this budget.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Government must think about the situation you have created which have resulted in the denial of opportunities, employment, capacity generation and asset generation. The unorganized and informal sector got tremendous shock .Gramin Dak Sevaks are not at all employment-wise secured. In LIC, other insurance companies and several nationalized banks there are several temporary employees who are working without any security. Railway engineers are pleading to upgrade their category of employment . There is need to look at them with a humanitarian ground.The Pranahita Kaleshwaram Project should be announced as a national project. It will enhance the flora and fauna of not only Telangana but of other states too. Even after the allocation for the healthcare has been increased but it is not going to be sufficient. Kindly look into it. BCs and OBCs are demanding a separate sub-Plan to protect their priorities. But with the removal of Plan and Non-Plan component the Government is doing injustice to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Sub-Plan also. Kindly look into it.

Discussion not concluded.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

Recent Attack on Security Forces at Sukma, Chhatisgarh on 11th March 2017

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): On March 11, 2017 two companies of CRPF at Bheji in Sukma District of Chhattisgarh were providing security cover for road construction on Bheji-Gorkha-Injiram Axis. Around 0853 hrs, when this party reached a forested area close to Bankupara village, armed Left Wing

Extremists ambushed them with heavy firing and simultaneous use of IED blasts. In this incident, unfortunately 12 personnel were martyred and 02 were seriously injured. The condition of injured personnel is stable and they are out of danger. 13 weapons and 02 Wireless Sets were taken away by the Left Wing Extremists. Names of the martyrs and injured are as follows:-

Names of the Martyrs

1. Insp Jagjeet Singh
2. ASI Hira Vallabh Bhatt
3. ASI Narender Singh
4. CT Suresh Kumar
5. CT Mangesh Bal Pandey
6. CT Rampal Singh Yadav
7. CT Gorakhnath
8. CT Nand Kumar Athram
9. CT Satish Chand Verma
10. CT K. Shankar
11. HC P.R. Mendhe
12. HC Jagdish Prasad Vishnoi

Names of the Injured

1. CT Jaydev Pramanik
2. CT Mohd Saleem Sagal

I express my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of the personnel who have lost their lives and I would like to say firmly that the entire nation is with them in their hour of grief. The nation will always remember their sacrifices. The injured personnel will be provided with the best possible treatment available. On behalf of the entire house, I pray for their health and wellbeing.

The unprecedented success of the Security Forces of late has led to evident uneasiness among the Left Wing Extremist Groups. The Forces have achieved tremendous success during 2016 in all LWE affected States and particularly in Chhattisgarh where 135 LWE cadres were eliminated, 779 arrested and 1198 surrendered. The number of violent incidents in Chhattisgarh also dropped by 15% from 466 in 2015 to 395 in 2016. Improved efficacy of the Security Forces is evident from the following indicators-

(a) The number of Left Wing Extremists killed increased by 150% (89 in 2015 to 222 in 2016) in 2016.

(b) Surrenders and arrests registered a combined increase of 47% over 2015 (2238 to 3282).

(c) Only 03 weapons were lost by the SFs in 2016 as against 15 in 2015.

(d) 67% of Encounters/Exchange of Fire resulted in neutralization of LWE cadres as against only 36% in 2015.

(e) Sustained operations by the Security Forces ensured that South Bastar districts, considered to be the nucleus of LWE strength witnessed a considerable fall in violence in 2016 (252 incidents as against 326 in 2015).

The Left Wing Extremists have suffered unprecedented losses in 2016. They have admitted so, openly in their documents and statements. They will continue to attempt such incidents to restore the flagging morale of their cadres. I believe that our brave soldiers and officers will continue to respond with

a firm resolve and contribute whole heartedly towards elimination of Left Wing Extremism.

However there is a need for introspection on this incident. I have directed the DG, CRPF to conduct a detailed enquiry into the incident so that the lapses that led to the incident can be identified which will reduce the possibility of repetition of such incidents in the future.

I visited Chhattisgarh to pay my homage to the martyrs and met the two injured personnel on the day of the incident itself. Arrangements were made to ensure that mortal remains reach their respective families. Loss of life can in no way be compensated by money, however, the next of kin of the martyred CRPF personnel will be provided Rs 35 lacs as ex-gratia from the Central Government, Rs 20 lacs from the Risk Fund of CRPF and Rs 01 lac from the CRPF Welfare Fund. They will also get Rs 25 lacs as insurance benefits and Rs 03 lacs as ex-gratia from the Chhattisgarh Government. The next of kin will also be provided full salary till the age of superannuation of the personnel martyred under the Liberalized Pensionary Award (LPA).

I assure the house that the Government is committed to providing all support to the CAPF in order to prepare them for their tasks. In the same way the Government is also committed to supporting the States for training, capacity building, provision of CAPF battalions as required and intelligence sharing.

I would like to assure the nation through this house that we will not let Left Wing Extremists succeed in misleading the people and depriving parts of the country from the benefits of development.

I once again pay my homage to the martyred personnel and express heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. I assure the house that their sacrifices will not go in vain.

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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