

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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

OBITUARY REFERENCE

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of **Shri Mentay Padmanabham**, a former Member of this House, on 1st of January, 2017, at the age of 83 years.

Born in April, 1934, at Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh, Shri Padmanabham was educated at Andhra University, Waltair, and Madras Law College, Chennai.

An advocate by profession, he practiced in the Sub-Court, Narasapuram, Andhra Pradesh, and in the High Court of Andhra Pradesh. He took keen interest in the cooperative movement, social welfare activities and was associated with several educational institutions in Bhimavaram. He also served as Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh State Textiles Development Corporation.

Shri Mentay Padmanabham represented the State of Andhra Pradesh in this House from September, 1989, to April, 1994. He was Leader of Telugu Desam Party in Rajya Sabha.

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

In the passing away of Shri Mentay Padmanabham, the country has lost an able parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Mentay Padmanabham.

(One Minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.)

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Need to evolve a Policy to look after the Victims of Rape and Their Children

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: There is no one to take care of the victims of rape who becomes pregnant consequently. Therefore, a law or a policy must be made in this regard and a support system be put in place to take care of them. Recently, one of such victim had to approach the Supreme Court for terminating her advanced pregnancy. There is no one to remove such victims' stigma and to look after their children. The Government must look into this matter.

(Several Hon'ble Members associated.)

2. Reported Statement of Defence Minister regarding Use of Nuclear Weapons

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: The Defence Minister recently articulated his 'personal' view in a programme which is contrary to India's 'No First Use (NFU) nuclear weapons' doctrine. This doctrine has been criticised by many strategists. If the Defence Minister is

making aggressive postures, then why the Government failed to ensure reciprocal visit by Indian team when the Government permitted Pakistani delegation to visit Pathankot into sensitive areas. He also falsely claimed that India had never did surgical strikes in the past. The Defence Minister of the country gives credit to RSS ideology for surgical strikes rather than giving credit to the bravery of our soldiers. The Minister should not ridicule neighbouring countries by making statements which can be construed to be in bad taste. I want to know whether India proposes to alter its policy.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: The Defence Minister should not have made a policy statement about India's nuclear doctrine outside the Parliament while it is in session. He must be careful while making statement about our neighbour countries.

(Several Hon'ble Members associated.)

3. Need to reinvestigate the Murder of a Youth in Kannur District of Kerala

SHRI K.K. RAGESH: I want to bring to the notice of this august House the gross human rights violation against two leaders from my district. They were accused in a murder case of one Fazal, with political intentions, and they were in jail for almost two years. They could not come out due to the stringent bail conditions. A CBI inquiry took place in this case. Recently, one Mohanan was killed in my District, and in that particular case the accused has confessed his involvement in Fazal case. Therefore, I demand a re-investigation.

(Shri C.P. Narayanan and Shri Ritabrata Banerjee associated.)

4. Concern over Abolition of Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCSP) and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP)

DR. NARENDRA JADHAV: Sir, one of the most serious fall-outs of the removal of distinction between Plan and Non-Plan expenditure is abolishment of the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and the Tribal Sub-Plan. This is a change from institutional mechanism, which was operational for nearly four decades. Presently, the gap between the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes on the one hand and the rest of the population on the other has remained unacceptably high. We seem to be moving in the opposite direction. Though it is true that the allocation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes has been raised by 35 and 33 per cent respectively, but regrettably, this is illusory. Now, it is easy to divert SC/ST allocations to administrative heads like salaries, pensions and the like rather than properly-targeted schemes for empowerment of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. I would like to make an appeal to the Finance Minister to reconsider this counter-productive paradigm shift.

(Several Hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Concern over Privatisation/Strategic Sale of Public Sector Undertakings

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the disastrous selling spree of the Central Government targeting most of the well-functioning and profit-making public sector undertakings, mostly in the core and strategic sector of the economy. In fact, the privatization exercise is aimed at severely weakening and destroying the country's manufacturing capability. No one can justify a Maharatna PSU like BEML, catering to defence-sector requirement, being targeted for privatization. The purpose is not to promote 'Make In India' but to help the big corporate houses. Sir, privatization of Indian PSUs means the end of reservation

for SCs and STs and end of selfless corporate social responsibility being undertaken by the Central PSUs.

(Several Hon'ble Members associated.)

6. Alleged Attacks on Workers of BJP and RSS in Kerala

DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE: I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a fact that there is an environment of intolerance, suppression and violence in Kerala for the last six months. People belonging to RSS are under attack. Nine people have been killed so far and a boy of ten years has been assaulted. Dalit Women have also been assaulted. The voice against the elements of dictatorship must be raised strongly.

7. Alleged Misbehaviour with Eminent Cinema Artists in Rajasthan

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Our Constitution is based on the principles of freedom of speech, but there has been growing intolerance in our country. The film fraternity has long been fighting this menace with no support from the Government. The film industry creates large number of employment opportunities but any disruption affects the earnings, growth and employment generation within the industry. Recently, in Jaipur, on the sets of a film Padmavati, Rajput Karni Sena assaulted its director Sanjay Leela Bhansali and damaged film equipments. I strongly condemn this incident and urge upon the Government to take strong action.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

8. Concern over Increase in Cases of Deaths Due to Swine Flu in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Swine flu, which is scientifically known as H1N1, has been spreading throughout the

country. In Andhra Pradesh, a number of cases have been resulted in death. The intensity and alarming situation can be understood by the Government. The medical authorities are totally unprepared to deal with the situation. I urge upon the Government to create awareness and take preventive measures.

9. Concern over Tribal Unrest in Jharkhand

SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: The Santhal Tribals and the original inhabitants of Jharkhand have been protesting for generations to get jobs and compensations in lieu of lands acquired by the government for coal mines, mines, dams and factories. More than one-third of the population has migrated from Jharkhand on account of inappropriate land acquisition policy and rehabilitation policy of the government. The local policy which has been brought by the government is against the feelings of Santhal tribals and the original inhabitants. If the CNT Act and the SPT Act are amended, Santhal tribals would be destroyed completely. I urge upon the government to intervene in the matter.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

10. Lack of Telephone Facilities in Many Police Stations in the Country

SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Rising crimes in the country gets extensive coverage but police forces gets overlooked. Many police stations in the country lack vehicles, phones and wireless sets. Manipur has 43 police stations without, phones or wireless sets. I want that the Government should take immediate steps to improve the condition of police stations particularly for women in the country.

(Shri Sharad Pawar, Shrimati Jaya Bachchan, Shri C.P. Narayana and Shri Tiruchi Siva associated.)

11. Provision of Resources and Special Funds for Uttarakhand and U.P. to deal with Natural Calamity in View of Earthquake on 6.2.2017

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Yesterday on 6th of February there was an earthquake in the hilly area of Rudraprayag which epicentre was at Pithoragarh. Uttarakhand state comes under highly sensitive Earthquake Zone-V. Whenever we meet with Natural Calamities, especially in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, the government promises but never fulfil it. I urge upon the government to have such a system in position that Uttarakhand gets assistance expeditiously after natural calamities.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): When there was flood and earthquake in the Uttarakhand, the Central Government extended its full support.

12. Miserable Conditions of Manual Scavengers in Country

SHRI D. RAJA: Manual scavenging is a prohibited profession in our country. Despite being banned by the Act, this practice is still prevalent across the country. The Government has no political will to eradicate this practice. The highest Court of the land has given the judgment that all those who died working in sewer, their families should be given Rs. 10 lakhs as compensation. So far, neither the Central Government nor any State Government has started any action to implement this. I want to know from the Government as to when this Government is going to come with a deadline to make India manual scavenging free.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI): 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' is a movement launched by our government. These all systems are inbuilt in this Abhiyan.

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

SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: The President's Address made in the joint session of the Parliament is historical in itself. It is for the first time when the budget of the country has been presented on 01st February and the Railway Budget has also been incorporated in the General Budget. It would certainly help in timely allocation for different schemes and at the same time would boost up our economy. The honourable President has paid his tribute to the power of the people of the country. He has paid this tribute because the people of the country in spite of being poor and exploited are intelligent and mature enough. This power of the people was truly recognized by Gandhi Ji and Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Ji during our struggle for freedom. Our honourable Prime Minister has presented himself as 'Pradhan Sewak' instead of 'Pradhan Mantri'. His Government have initiated several schemes keeping in view the poor and deprived people of the country. Millions of people have been linked to the Jan-Dhan Accounts. Likewise, on the Prime Minister's call millions of rich people surrendered their LPG subsidies, which were in turn given to millions of poor people. Similarly, several regions of the country were made 'open-defecation free' under the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'. The Government have also made a strike on the black money, Hawala trade and terrorism through demonetization. The poor and deprived people of the country would be benefitted by this step of the Government. This Government have also started several unprecedented schemes to make the poor and Dalits people of

the country economically competent. These steps of the Government have created a new hope amongst the people of the country. With these words I would like to thank the honourable President for his address.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: We all are having a great respect for our honourable President, who is the patron of our Constitution but at the same time we are not agree with the policies which have been highlighted in his address. The condition of the farmers is very pathetic in the country. Their condition has been further worsened because of demonetization. They are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. They are also not having enough money to pay to cold storages that is why their produce got rotted. These are the main reason for which the farmers are committing suicide. In such a scenario the youth of such agrarian families may get attracted towards Naxalism etc. This Government had promised to give two crore employment to the youth of the country every year. But now instead of taking steps in this direction they are diverting the main issue by announcing new schemes every now and then. The feelings of the people should be taken care of by the Government, otherwise the condition would become out of control. We keep on importing rejected goods from other countries. Our small and medium industries are on the verge of closure. Inspector raj is back in the country. India is turning into a dumping ground of cheap Chinese goods. India drops to dismal 142nd ranking on 'ease of doing business.' Vacancies are lying vacant in every department of the Government. Demonetisation was an ill-planned step of the Government. Foreign tourists faced the brunt of demonetisation. No effective step has been taken for backward states like Bihar and Jharkhand. Nothing concrete has been done till date for so called millennium cities. Much has to be undertaken for modernisation and expansion of railways. There would be no compromise on reservation.

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: There is nothing new in this Presidential Address. Tall promises made in the 2014 election

manifesto remain unfulfilled. We have been accused of doing nothing during the last 60 years. The Presidential Address is silent on increasing population of the country. No new policy has been introduced during the regime of the present Government. Government's foreign policy as well as economic policy has proved a failure. Today law and order situation has deteriorated with rising unrest and rising rapes in the country. Police should be equipped with sophisticated weaponry and training facilities. With these words, I oppose this Motion.

SHRI K.T.S. TULSI : The catastrophic impact of demonetisation was felt in the areas of employment as well as industry. There was not even a word of condolence to the families of those, over a hundred, who lost their lives while standing in the queues to withdraw money from the ATMs. The Government promised two crore jobs every year but on the contrary millions of jobs have been taken away. It is very unfortunate that about 70 per cent of industrial units of Ludhiana hosiery industry has shut down. It has been claimed that crores of toilets had been constructed. But it did not mention that how many of these toilets are usable. It is very sad that hundreds of lives have been lost in accidents of the trains on account of lack of safety on the tracks. The Address would have mentioned as to how many jawans have been killed on the borders after surgical strikes. It is very sad that farmers are not even getting a minimum price for their crops. I feel that the Government needs to introspect and examine their failure in the field of industry, agriculture and employment.

SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Government has claimed that demonetization will curb black money, corruption and terrorism. But unfortunately that has not happened. Demonetization has affected our economy very badly. Government have forced the people to stand in long queues and hundreds of people have even lost their lives in this process. Their families should be compensated. I appreciate the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' programme. But foeticide is quite rampant in our country. As a result of this number of girls are decreasing. It is very alarming and shameful. There is need to take some effective

steps in this regard. Proposal of conducting elections simultaneously is a welcome step. In order to provide employment to the people Government should establish industries in all states. Today farmers are in distress so their loans should be waived off.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN : In this Address all small things have been exaggerated to big things. This Government had promise to bring back the black money invested in foreign countries. Since they could not do so they have taken up this demonetization exercise. Farmers, Fishermen and all people had to face many problems because of demonetization. The issue of conducting elections simultaneously is a serious issue. I think that it is possible only in a two-party democracy. I would like to appreciate certain things in this Address like 100 per cent rural electrification, Women Self-Help Groups, free gas connections and Group Housing Schemes.

SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY, making his maiden speech,
said: This Address appears to be trumpeting the schemes and programmes of the Government rather than giving details as to what the Government is going to do in the coming years. I feel that the Address is monotonous and visionless. Nothing is mentioned about internal security and the problems of the police personnel. The police reforms is not only sensitive and important but also having far-reaching consequences. Because without proper and effective internal security, the progress of any state is not possible. The police get least salary. Of course in Karnataka the situation has improved a lot. Both the State and the Central Governments should look into this issue very seriously. Policemen are there to give us protection when we have celebrations. This is the utmost sacrifice that anybody can make. Once a policeman is recruited, he never gets trained again like the IPS Officers for refresher courses. Not many States have a system of training policemen often. The Central Government must think of a system to give them training. Policemen are supposed to face anti-social and anti-national elements and mostly lathi is only weapon with them in the name of weapon. Private housing is not possible for Police. because people do not give them their house on rent. None of

the Government have not taken police reforms very seriously. In most of most of the places, police station buildings are very small. A police station should feel as if people have gone to a place where they can get justice. The equipment there is outdated. Criminals are now having better infrastructure as compared to police. Unless we take up police reforms very seriously, our internal security may collapse any time. The wages for policemen need to be fixed separately without comparing with other Government servants and risk factor, weekly offs, holidays, etc should be taken into account. I would like this House to take note of these problems of policemen that some activities, which help the police to improve their morale and improve their economic conditions, are taken up. Thousand of policemen have lost their lives in performing their duties. Why are they not treated as martyrs? Only retired police officers attend Police Commemoration Day on 21st October. Public is not concerned about it. Colonial attitude about police stations and policemen should be changed. Supreme sacrifice of police goes unnoticed due to indifference shown by polity, media, society and other established institutions. There is nothing anywhere in the entire Budget Speech or in the Presidential Address about this. If the internal security is strong then economic development will take place and the society will be peaceful. It should become the primary duty of the Central and State Governments to properly take care of most important so-called strong arm of the Government so that they can take care of the country. There is a strong feeling that police are very corrupt. But, I feel that majority of the police force are sincere and hardworking though black sheep are there. Government have to take action against these corrupt policemen by identifying them. I would like this august House to ponder that the message of the police wellness is well-taken.

MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA: Schemes for farmers, women, youth and poor are very commendable. There is increase in allocation for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in budget 2016-17. Present Government are implementing various schemes for the welfare of Dalits and backward classes. Government have purchased the building in London, where Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedker was used to stay for his studies, for constructing mega

monument with residential accommodation. Commemorative coins have been issued in the name of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedker and many other projects are also going on in different states in this regard. Atrocities Act with strong provisions have been passed on stopping atrocities against weaker sections. BHIM app has been launched for promoting cashless economy. Centenary birth year of hon. Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay is being observed as poor welfare year. Crores of jan-dhan bank accounts have been opened for poor people to connect with banking system. These jan-dhan bank accounts will stop the exploitation of labours as they were not getting full wages when wages were being paid in cash but now will be able to get their wages directly in their account and they will get full wages. Ujjawala Yojna and Atal Pension Yojna are being implemented for those who are at the receiving end of the society.

SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: I support the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. The demonetization supported by the entire people. I support all the programmes that have been mentioned here in the Address. I hope that these would be implemented properly so that the people of our country are benefited. Friends from the BJP must work hard to implement these programmes in the rural areas, so that people living there are benefited by these programmes. We support the entire programme that has been mentioned. I hope, this would help the poor and the downtrodden.

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: It is my privilege to express my opinion on the President's Address on behalf of the Telugu Desam Party. The initiative taken by the Government on the LPG subsidy is marvellous and praise-worthy. The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan is also a great programme of the Government which motivated the people to go for cleanliness. Jan Dhan Yojana scheme introduced by the Government is also a great thing. The Hon. President has said that his Government has started many social security programmes like Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana, PM Aawas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, issue of Ru Pay debit cards for promotion of cashless payments, Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana, Deendayal Gram Jyoti Yojana etc. which have led the country to transform into a new

society. Lots of poor people have been benefited by these schemes. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Kisan Credit Cards, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana etc. have also proven good for the welfare of the farmers. Large numbers of farmers are experiencing the benefits through these schemes and suicides graph of farmers is coming down. The Hon. President has also detailed the schemes launched for the benefit of the women in the country like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme , Suraksha Samridhi Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan etc. Rural women folk are getting the maximum benefits from these schemes. In the same way Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana, Stand-up-India, are increasing the skills of the young people. The bold decisions taken by the Government, like Demonetisation, implementation of OROP in the defence field, undertaking surgical strikes at borders, launch of BHIM Mobile Payment system, Aadhar Payment System, are leading our country to all-round development. I express profound thanks on behalf of my Telugu Desam Party to the Hon. President of India for mentioning about all the developmental schemes and steps taken by this Government for bringing all-round development of the country.

SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: It happened for the first time in the history of the country after independence that Budget was presented simultaneously before time. In his Address, the Honourable President has depicted in very nice words the steps taken by Government for the development of the country during the continuous last two years. The work-culture developed by our Honourable Prime Minister is certainly praiseworthy. By inviting Heads of several neighbouring countries on the occasion of oath taking ceremony, the Prime Minister flashed the message as to what kind of relations we want to have with our neighbouring countries. Today, the people of the country feel proud that we have given the leadership of our country in such hands. If we talk about GDP, it was 5.6 percent in 2012-13 while in 2015-16, it is 7.6 percent. This increase within such a short span of time is not a small thing. Not only this, but also if coming from such a remote area and from scheduled tribes

community, I am speaking here among so many wise Members, the credit for giving this encouragement to me goes to Honourable Narendra Modi Government only. Today provisions have been made in the Budget keeping the concerns of villages, poor people, farmers, labourers and youths and everyone has been included in this Address. If we talk about Railway, the condition of Stations was quite deplorable. Today, these stations look like 5-Star Hotels. Today, work of developing national highways is going on all around and connectivity has increased too much. Today, the countrymen feel proud by looking at present leadership. Two Muslim countries, Saudi Arabia and Afghanistan have conferred the highest civilian award to our Honourable Prime Minister. This is not a small achievement. All the schemes have focused on villages, poor, farmers and labourers. Therefore, I support this Address and express my gratitude towards the Honourable President and extend my thanks to Honourable Prime Minister and this August House for giving me an opportunity to express myself on this Address.

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA: I would like to tell the Government today that your announcements are not on ground. Your announcements are only on papers. You are not going to gain anything. You said that you will double the income of farmers. You only talk about farmers but do not think about them. Today our farmer is feeling cheated. At the time of sowing season, the farmer had no money. His eyes were full of tears. Farmers had to throw their produce on the roads, or they had to sell it on throwaway prices. Government should give bonus to farmers for their crops. Minimum support price for the crops of farmers should be increased. There is no scheme for irrigation and farmers are agitating for drinking and irrigation water. Farmers constitute a large part of the population and government must do something for them. After fifty days of demonetization there was no announcement for waiving loans of farmers. We are with the government in fight against corruption. Country wants to know about the amount of black money that has been recovered. Now the government has started talking about digital India and cashless India. Cashless India is not possible. Surgical strike

against poverty and unemployment is need of the hour. Large factories and public sector undertakings were established during previous regimes. Government has done nothing for Dalits, minorities and women empowerment. Promises made to the poor, farmers, youth and women must be fulfilled.

DR. NARENDRA JADHAV: With five year plans coming to an end, there is no clarity about the future of planning process in India. A very large amount of allocation for scholarships for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students has not been spent. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes allocations should be linked to their respective shares in population. Demonetization has resulted in re-distribution of wealth from the tax-evading wealthy and corrupt people to the poor people of our country. Demonetization has struck against the counterfeit currency and financing of terrorism in our country. If the Government had issued instructions to all the commercial banks to recalibrate their ATM machines before the announcement of demonetization, secrecy would not have been maintained. As a result of demonetization all that money stored at various places has come back into the formal system. Total amount of black money has not been revealed because investigation is going to take some time. From the new financial year, not only the growth rate will come back to the earlier levels, but there will also be an acceleration of growth. Demonetization has made the economy more transparent, more accountable, more clean and, therefore, there will be more sustainable growth in future.

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****Supplement covering rest of the proceedings is being issued Separately.