

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, March 15, 2017/ Phalguna 24, 1938 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Situation due to Abolition of Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan and Non-Allocation of Budget in Proportion to Population

SHRI P.L. PUNIA: At the time of independence, 95 percent people belonging to Scheduled Castes/Tribes were below poverty line. A number of schemes were framed to remove it. In 1980, Indira Ji launched Scheduled Castes sub-plan and Tribal sub-plan scheme. According to that, budget will be allocated in proportion to the population of Scheduled Castes/ Tribes. But, it is a matter of great regret that in the recent Budget of 2017-18, the concept of Scheduled Castes sub-plan and Tribal sub-plan has been abolished and it was claimed that we have allocated 52,393 crore rupees. The budget of Scheduled Castes should be 16.6 percent and that of Scheduled Tribes should be 8.6 percent. But, only 2.50 percent budget has been allocated in it. This is very shameful. I would like to know that when the balance amount of Scheduled Castes sub-plan would be cleared. Besides, a massive curtailment has been made in the centrally sponsored schemes also. Therefore, I would like to make a special

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

request that the entire amount of Scheduled Castes sub-plan is released.

(Shri D. Raja, Shri Ali Anwar Ansari, Shri C.P. Narayanan and Shri K. Somaprasad associated.)

2. Concern over the Manner of Formation of Governments in Goa and Manipur Disrespecting the People's Mandate

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: In the recent Assembly elections, the voters have given their verdict. I congratulate the Ruling Party that they have scored a big victory in the State of Uttar Pradesh. We are equally proud and happy that in Punjab, the voters have given a massive mandate to the Indian National Congress to form the Government. In a sensitive border State of Manipur, the Indian National Congress has emerged as the single largest party with 28 MLAs and with assured support, the incumbent Chief Minister was in a position to form the Government. In the State of Goa, the Indian National Congress emerged as the single largest party. Now, the Governor is obliged to first invite the leader of the largest party to form the Government and to prove their majority. In case, they are not in a position only then the second largest party will be given an opportunity. Here they have turned it upside down. The mandate has been violated. It is a murder of democracy. They do not have the right to do what they have done.

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), responding to the matter, said: I have a point of order under rule 238. The question he has raised about the role of Hon'ble Governor should be expunged because it is very clear that if a discussion has to take place on the role of Hon'ble Governor, a substantive motion would come for that and not a sweeping statement like this.

3. Continued Discrimination against Dalit Students in Universities and Suicide by a Dalit Student of JNU

SHRI D. RAJA: I am raising the issue of a dalit research scholar studying in JNU who died in mysterious circumstances. I appeal to the Government to take note of this mysterious death, and go for a thorough probe and find out what led the dalit scholar to take such a step? We will have to look at long-term issues like the dalits' admission policy which is discriminatory. When Rohit Vemula died, the whole country rose in protest. There was a demand for legislation against discrimination. Students are the future of our country. I am asking the Government and all the sides of this House: Why should we keep quiet? What is the step we take?

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: It is a serious issue. I just went to the AIIMS Hospital. The parents say that the person was not a depressed one and his friends say that he was a happy person. There was no suicide note etc. found. The FIR has not been filed. The postmortem has not yet been done.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: The injustice is being meted out to Dalit and deprived classes not only in JNU but also in other parts of the country for the last several years. I demand that the HRD Minister should come and give a statement in the House with regard to the action being taken by the Government on this issue.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Why would a student like Muthukrishnan who has got into JNU after so much struggle end up like this? Several students are of the view that our universities are being turned into graveyards for the oppressed. Is this the state of affairs which we want to continue in this country?

SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI: Muthukrishnan has written in his Facebook post that discrimination is being meted out to dalit students in admissions in this University. These kinds of incidents are being repeated continuously in all the Central Universities. The father of Muthukrishnan has demanded that a doctor from Kerala should also be there in the panel doing Post Mortem. The University administration is trying to suppress the matter.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Normally in this situation, a statement from the HRD Minister should have been here. The crime rate against the Dalits has gone up from 19.6 to 23.4 per cent. Dalit students are submitted to a lot of harassment and oppression and, for that, this Government has to be responsible and answer.

(Several Hon'ble Members associated.)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN), responding to the matter, said: I went to the mortuary this morning, and I have met with the father and the guardian of the boy. We heard everybody's voice and very clearly directed the police, that by 12 o' clock the FIR should be filed and a copy should be given to father, guardian and to any number of students who would want a copy of it. So far as abetment to suicide related section of IPC and section of amended Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is concerned, subject to inquiry, we have asked police to make sure that these two sections are invoked and FIR is filed.

I have told students that statements prepared by teachers or well-wishers etc. be given to police. We are interested in making universities a better place for students, particularly who come from socially deprived sections. The hon. Home Minister has very clearly stated that he will consider the demand of giving job opportunity to the sister's of Muthukrishnan. I want to place it before the House and assure that we have given the maximum attention and we will ensure that justice is done.

4. Threat of Violence against Chief Minister of Kerala

SHRI K.K. RAGESH: Recently, in a public meeting, a leader of the saffron brigade offered a bounty of rupees one crore for killing Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, the Chief Minister of Kerala. He also threatened to kill CPM activists of Kerala and also throughout the country. Three months back, the Chief Minister of Kerala was supposed to address a public rally in Bhopal, organized by some Malayalee organizations. On the protest of the saffron brigade, the

Government had advised that the Chief Minister should not attend that programme.

On 19th, another programme is being organized at Hyderabad but the same saffron brigade has said that they won't allow the Chief Minister of Kerala to attend that programme. Who are they to make such kind of a statement? They are targeting Kerala with the same agenda of communalism. The CPI(M) and Shri Pinarayi Vijayan have emerged as icons of defending and safeguarding the secular fabric of the State. That is why, the Chief Minister of Kerala is being attacked.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: RSS cannot take up of self-proclaimed defenders and implementers of law in our country. That is something not acceptable and this House should condemn this.

(Shri Tapan Kumar Sen and Shri D. Raja associated.)

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