

RAJYA SABHA

***SUPPLEMENT**

TO

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Tuesday, August 1, 2017/ Shravana 10, 1939 (Saka)

GOVERNMENT BILL

**The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education
(Amendment) Bill, 2017 - *Contd.***

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: The RTE Act has been in operation for the last seven years. It is one of the landmark legislations. It is time for us to review its implementation. Seven years is quite a considerable time to review any programme or plan. Only one clause of the Bill is being amended i.e. to extend the training period. This Act has done a lot of good things. Several achievements have been made. The burden of educating a child in the age group of 6-14 years has been shifted primarily from parents to the State. Today it is the responsibility of the State to provide free, compulsory and quality education to a child and no child should be left out. It is both the Central Government and the State Governments that have been entrusted with the responsibility. The major responsibility is survey of neighbourhood. It is only through survey of neighbourhood children that the State will come to know as to how many children are available there, who are to be educated, who are from deprived section of the society. That is the

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

obligation under the Act. Seventy per cent of the survey has not taken place. Today this Act is implemented not with love and affection by taking cooperation of everybody, it is implemented through the power of the State. Except a school management committee, the parents are not involved in finding out or in assessing what this thing is. The schools are not involved, the management is not involved. Only the block education officer of the State Government is involved. It is full of corruption at the block education officer level. A racket is there through the block education officer to get the seats in the private schools. Every year the neighbourhood criteria is changed. Private schools play a very important role in our system. They are providing you lakhs and lakhs of free seats. There is a conflict between the CBSE and the State CBSE schools. They issue different circulars. The problems of private schools have not been taken into consideration. It should be found out how much more effectively the private schools can implement the provisions of Right to Compulsory Education. There is absolutely no say for the private schools in the entire implementation of the RTE Act whereas they are the biggest contributors. It is a common that you are taking away 25 per cent of the seats of the private institutions. But, at the same time, their problems may also be taken into consideration. There is no Committee of the private schools and the Government. The State Government does not consult them. Everything is being left at the mercy of the bureaucracy. The CBSE should have consultation with the private schools because they have the largest number of schools in the country. Then, it is the financial aspect. The CAG Report says, "There is no separate budget for RTE and it is subsumed in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Budget. The CAG Report has also commented about various irregularities. The regular household surveys were conducted to record and update the information of all children up to the age of 14 years in 14 States/UTs; while no such regular surveys were conducted in the remaining 21 States/UTs, consequently vital information has been missed. The poor retention rate is prevailing in the Government schools. There is huge retention in private schools as per the CAG Report. There is a huge drop-out in Government schools. The very purpose of this Act is to tackle the drop-out. The

next point is regarding conditions of Government schools. Every Government school should have certain infrastructure under the Act. It talks about the minimum infrastructure. There is no minimum infrastructure in most of the schools.

Absence of minimum infrastructure, physical infrastructure and teachers deprives children from taking admission in the Government schools as poor parents can't afford admission of their children in private schools. Only influential people can go to the private schools to get admission of their children under the 25 per cent quota. Consequently, 75 per cent of the children remain deprived of quality education. My suggestion to the Government is that let there be public involvement, stakeholders' involvement and private schools' involvement. It is the duty of private schools and public schools. This is the time for taking stock of the RTE Act. This is one of the landmark legislations which would change the destiny of the nation.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I, rise to support the Bill on behalf of my party DMK, which seeks to amend the Right of the Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, to extend the deadline for the teachers to acquire the prescribed minimum qualification. Prescribing minimum qualification for the teachers alone would not suffice. Despite having too many educational institutions in the country, 60 per cent of the engineering graduates remain unemployed. We stand no where compared to our neighbours regarding quality of education. So, the Government should improve the quality of education and should find out the reasons for problems in learning of Mathematics. Steps should be taken to fill up the vacancies of teachers. Education must be brought under states instead of being under Concurrent List. In view of shortage of teachers in schools, assigning additional non-teaching responsibilities like elections, surveying and other things to teachers should be stopped with immediate effect as it affects the quality of education. The quality of education has to be improved.

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: The Bill brought in by the Government talks of teacher training and Right to Education for the children. I want to say that first of all norms should be changed.

Personal attention is required for each child. There should be one teacher for each class then only we can establish strong foundation. Level of education in rural areas is very low. We are going to open universities, colleges, IIT, IIM and medical colleges but how many children from rural areas are taking admission in them that is most important. For this our education department, education system and education methodology is to be blamed which is required to be improved. I suggest hon'ble minister that he should get the survey conducted to know on what basis licence is provided to run private schools. I would also like to say that English medium should start from primary school itself so that children from rural areas could also be benefited. You talk about training but what about those who are already trained but they do not know anything. What are going to do for them? Would you plan any orientation programme for them. You are going to train them but whether their service will be added in that. We welcome this bill but it should be implemented properly.

DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: This Act was passed seven years back. For the past seven years, they could not train even a teacher. Please make it compulsory for the non-eligible teachers that they must complete their minimum qualification within the next three or four years. The contribution of private schools, colleges of Karnataka in education in this country is tremendous. Though we studied in Government schools but today there is no qualified teacher who is interested in teaching. They come for job, for the sake of salary, spend their time and just go. We have failed in Government schools because there is no accountability whether they are teaching or not. Why not take action against the Government school teachers? Most of the students those who are selected, come from these private schools under the RTE Act. Their minimum income is much more than what they show. As per my personal experience, under this RTE Act, about 50 percent children take admission on fake certificate. I think you have to make some mechanism. In our country a new system NEET has been initiated. I am very sorry to talk about NEET. Today in medical college many seats of post graduation are lying vacant. The condition of engineering colleges is worse. More than 50 per cent seats are vacant in engineering colleges because there

is no quality, there is no employment so, you have to review this whole system, not just primary. Today the condition of our country is that not even one single university is within the top 100 in the world, including IIT. Malaysia is following the Indian education system. We do not have schools to impart qualification for B.Ed. unless and until you give good training and accountability, it is not easy to improve the situation. Assessment of teachers should be made annually.

SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Untrained teachers will be trained through this Bill and I support the same. Private schools do not give admission to the children of common people. We need to think as to how we can improve the quality of education in the government schools. Education is the key to success. When girl students were not going to the schools, hon'ble Chief Minister came up with the "Cycle Scheme". 3 per cent children from rural areas of hindu community and 4.3 per cent from rural areas of Muslim community are out of schools. More girls are going to schools but boys are not going to schools. We should think over it. A committee should be formed at the district level to curb the arbitrariness of private schools. MPs and MLAs must be members to this committee. Vacancies of teachers are required to be filled. There are 32 channels in the 'Swayam Prabha' scheme. These will be telecasted three times and will train our untrained teachers. If we have smart teachers then only our children will be smart.

SHRI ANIL DESAI: I support the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2017. Those teachers who do not have required minimum qualification till 31st of March, 2015, will have to complete it in four years of time, but when by 2019 or 2021? I think some terminology needs to be changed so that it gives you some idea as to when this enactment comes into being. About 11 lakh teachers of private and government schools will get compulsory qualification. What will be the fate of those who are left out and who are not able to complete or acquire the education which is required of them by 2019? I think hon'ble Minister should enlighten the House about this. Today, the plight of teachers is too bad in the State of Maharashtra and also at some other places. Teachers are deprived of

the dignity. They are facing problems related to salary and living standards. Dropout rate will continue to go up in the government schools in non-urban areas unless they are not good in infrastructure, class-rooms, electricity and basic facilities. Though education is a Concurrent subject I would urge the Central Government that proper budgeting should be done in every state for proper welfare of children between the age group of 0-6, 6-14 and 14-18. It should go to six per cent. Only then, the objectives for education can be achieved.

SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: I welcome the initiative of the Government in moving this Amendment Bill. The surveys reveal that there is still lot to be done both on the development of infrastructure and improving the content and quality of teaching under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. As per media, the state of teacher education in India is very dismal and the regulatory body National Council for Teacher Education is abdicating its mandated responsibilities. The Amendment attempts to address the acute shortage of trained teachers in the country. The teacher training programmes were not able to address adequately the vision, skills and values necessary for the kind of classroom envisioned by various policies. The recommendations by various committees in recent decades for urgent reform of teacher education are yet to be implemented. Demand for more teachers has led to an explosion in the number of teacher education institutions but infrastructure, faculty expertise, learning resources or quality could not be improved. A greater challenge is that more than 85 per cent of these teacher education institutes are in the private sector where the State has exerted little quality control. Government should take necessary action with particular reference to teacher education and teacher training infrastructure as planned under this Bill. I hereby recommend that the Bill be passed by the House.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: The Central budgetary allocation for Sarva Siksha Abhiyan and the Mid-day Meal Scheme has been reduced in the year 2017-18 as compared to the year 2013-14. I would like to ask the hon. Minister only one question, how, in the light of the declining budgetary allocation for Sarva Siksha

Abhiyan and the Mid-day Meal Scheme, the objectives under the Right to Education Bill will be fulfilled.

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Many schemes are being run by the Government of India for which thousands of crore of rupees are allocated. But that money is totally wasted. If the same money is diverted to the Primary Education, it may benefit a lot. It would be better, if the Government do away with all these schemes. If English is introduced in primary education of North India and West India, it would provide employment to teacher as well as inferiority complex of the children would also be removed.

SHRIMATI ROOPA GANGULY: Any such rule be made whereby, no primary school teachers and other staff members will be allowed to participate in any political rally on a working day. There should be a monitoring of teachers appointment and students enrolment.

SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: I would like to mention about the scarcity of good teacher training institutions in the country. The Government should seriously think about establishing quality and high-standard teacher training institutions. This Amendment should have come into effect, at least, two years ago. If training is not made compulsory at the school level, the teachers will not be able to perform. There should be a rotation of teachers. Training and re-orientation should be made a compulsory activity and it should be rotated. In Karnataka, private school seats are filled up and Government school seats remain vacant. Parents want their children to be admitted to the private schools and not the Government schools. The State Government's intervention in fixing the fee and in changing the syllabus is too much. There should be a restriction.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR), replying to the debate, said: A National Education Movement was also started alongwith the Freedom Movement. That is why we have reached up to this stage. If the situation has deteriorated today, this is a matter of concern for all. We have to remove that defect together and improve

the situation. We have now completely codified the learning outcomes. Handbooks have been given to teachers in all schools and they are being trained also on the basis of that handbook. Parents will also get a pamphlet indicating the fact that your child is in this class and he should know this and this. This will bring in accountability of schools, teachers, parents, students and everybody. I believe that this work will go on smoothly. Along with learning outcomes, two chances will be provided in fifth and eighth standard after examination. First examination will be conducted in the month of March. Second examination will be conducted in the month of May for such children who fail in the examination conducted in March. We will detain only such children who fail in the second examination. This right too, we are providing to states. We have decided that from this year onward Board Examinations for tenth class will be compulsory. Those who want to be teachers will go for B.A.-B.Ed, B.SC.-B.Ed, B.Com.-B.Ed and this integrated course will be of four years duration. This change is also on the anvil and we will soon come before you with this change.

Now, I come to the Bill. An issue was raised in this regard as to how you will train 11 lakh teachers within two years? This course will commence through SWAYAM Prabha. We will reach to all the 11 lakh teachers from 15th August to 15th September. We have mobile numbers and E-mail addresses of almost all the teachers. We will reach to everyone individually and ask them to get themselves registered. This registration is free. NCERT and three-four other very good institutions are preparing courses for it. Under this, questions will also be asked through discussion forum. We will get their replies and certificates will be provided. All this will be conducted through SWAYAM Prabha on Doordarshan Channels. I would also like to divulge that it will have a 12 days practical. There will be a Block-level camp for 12 days each year during this two years training. Therein, each teacher and student will have face to face interaction. I fully believe that this will certainly succeed because all the states are with us in this regard.

As total number of students in informal schools are nearly 50 lac as per figures of 2014, a movement be started to identify out of school students and enrol them in the formal schools. We have clearly instructed the authorities that except census, election and disaster related work teachers should not be entrusted with other non-academic work. It is a reality today that enrolment in government schools has been decreasing at the rate of 4 percent per year, whereas it is increasing by 8 percent in private school. We accept this as a challenge and we will take our government schools to such a higher level where they can beat private schools in a health competition. Our pass percentage in Kendriya Vidhyalayas and Navodaya schools is higher than that of private schools. We should consider on expanding KVS like institutions in the country. We are not in favour of having teachers on contract or on adhoc basis. We have decided total learning hours only and it has been left on the State Government to decide time-table, holidays and number of working days of the schools. I want to mention that Centre compensate the State Governments for the students admitted in the private schools under 25 percent EWS quota. It is right that we have controlled the unnecessary expenditure, but we will not reduce the allocation for education. We are deliberating on teaching of parents or illiterates by their own children. As education is a national agenda, we all should make improvement in it collectively.

The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted.

Clauses etc., were adopted.

The Bill, was passed.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

1. Demand to expedite the Clearance of Two Water Desalination Projects as proposed by the Tamil Nadu Government

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Chennai is water stressed city with limited water potential and mismatch in demand and supply. The state views the desalination as the only solution. In Chennai with 200 MLD installed capacity two additional projects of 150 MLD capacity and 400 MLD capacity each have been conceived to bridge the gap at a cost of Rs. 1259 crores and Rs. 5866 crores respectively. These projects have received approval like loan assistance etc. from various agencies and the procurement process for the first project has already begun. These projects are awaiting clearance from Expert Approval Committee for Coastal Regulation Zone under the Ministry of Environment and Forests. I appeal to the Government to expedite clearance of these projects for Chennai.

(Shri Tiruchi Siva, Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth and Shri A.K. Selvaraj associated.)

2. Demand to give Greater Priority to the Settlement of Community Forest Rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: The Forest Right Act was passed for the welfare of tribals and other forest dwellers. This law recognises individual and community rights. The law could recognise only individual rights forgetting the community rights. Out of 17000 villages only a small fraction got control under the Act. State Government gave supremacy to Forest Department over Gram Sabha even in Gadchiroli district. I call upon the respective Ministries to accord priority for forest rights and restore 2009 policy for environmental clearance in tribal areas.

(Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu and Shri P.L. Punia associated.)

3. Demand to make Arrangements for Free of Cost Treatment for People suffering from Kidney Disease in Several Villages of Gariyaband District in Chhattisgarh

SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA: 54 persons died as a result of kidney ailment caused by contaminated ground water in dozen of villages of District Gariyaband block Devbhog including village Supebera. Persons have no option but to consume this contaminated water from the wells and hand pumps. The State Government has failed to find the cause of this dreaded disease and public are becoming victim for want of unaffordable treatment resulting the alienation of this area. I demand from the Government to urgently arrange free treatment of victims and make provision for potable water to every household under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking water Mission.

(Shri Husain Dalwai, Shri P.L. Punia, Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu and Shri Jairam Ramesh associated.)

4. Demand to set up a Memorial for the Great Freedom Fighter Veer Surendra Sai

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Veer Surendra Sai of Sambalpur in Odisha raised his voice against Britishers at the age of 18 and fought for freedom till death in British jail. He raised his sword much before war of independence. His entire family scarified their lives. The tribals of the region fought guerilla warfare from front. Shahid Madho Singh and his family have a special place in this warfare. Veer Surendra Sai breathed his last at 75 in the jail suffering torture away from homeland. His sacrifice and patriotism is of great inspiration to all Indians. I urge upon the Government to set up a memorial of this valiant freedom fighter.

(Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu and Shri K. Somaprasad associated.)

5. Demand to make a Policy to Assist and Rehabilitate Serving, Injured and Retired Soldiers who work under Difficult Climate and Geographic Conditions

SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Soldiers live in a grim situation. Large segment of Indian Army is deployed in border areas and also fight against insurgency, terrorism and militancy and indoctrinated locals, worse than fighting a known enemy. Soldiers spend most of their time in training for operational roles of the Unit thus their peace station posting too never remains easy. Peace station and field posting causes a great impact on the psychological mindset and physical well-being of the soldiers. Soldiers and their families need urgent solutions to the growing disenchantment. They develop many physical problems while serving in adverse climatic conditions. Government helps the families of Martyrs. But what about the serving, injured and retired soldiers who develop certain deformities or have undergone physical or mental disorders. Soldiers who ensure the security of the nation and secure our peaceful sleep round the clock should not be forgotten.

6. Demand to formulate Legislation for Domestic Workers

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: The need for regulation of domestic work arises due to two reasons. Firstly, domestic work accounts for 1 per cent of the total employment in the country. As per ILO 4.2 million persons were employed in private households. Secondly, there is absence of a countrywide mechanism that provides social protection and safeguards labour rights of domestic workers. This leads to undervaluation, underpayment and exploitation of domestic work. A Task Force on Domestic Workers in 2009 was supposed to draft a National Policy for Domestic Workers. A policy will not guarantee the labour rights of domestic workers. National Legislation for domestic workers will regulate the sector, ensure minimum standards of a safe working environment and allow workers to enjoy labour rights. Maharashtra has enacted Domestic Workers Welfare Act, 2008. Government should build consensus with State Governments for implementing a national legislation.

(Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu associated.)

7. Demand to take Necessary Steps for Efficient Management of the National Waqf Development Corporation Ltd.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: The National Wakf Development Corporation Ltd. was established in January, 2014 to develop wakf properties and generate resources for the socio-economic and educational empowerment of the Muslim community and to contribute towards nation building. There are more than 4.9 lakh registered *auqaf* generating annual income of over Rs. 200 crores. Wakf properties are spread over 6 lakh acres with market value of about Rs. 1.12 lakh Crore. Many of these *auqaf* are on prime land and have potential of generating over Rs.12000 crores per annum. Performance of NAWADCO is very bleak and it has not initiated a single project till date in its fourth year of existence. The lackadaisical approach of the bureaucracy are taking its toll. I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps to activate the organisation and ensure that the corporation is managed in professional manner towards achieving the desired goal.

(Shri Husain Dalwai associated.)

8. Demand to address the Problem of Mal-nutrition among Children in the Country

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: There are nutritional challenges in the country. According to the International Food Policy Research Institute, 2014, average 29 per cent of the children below the age of five are underweight and 39 per cent are stunted. These indicators have witnessed improvement of about one per cent per year. 50 per cent of the children under the age of five in 1992-93 and 40 per cent in 2005-06 were underweight. There are 40 million stunted children in the country, the largest in the world. Also, India ranks 120 out of 130 countries in prevalence of low weight for height at 15.1 per cent. In fact, child under nutrition in India is double that of sub-Saharan Africa and five times than that in China. This is a cause of grave concern and deserves immediate attention of the Government.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

9. Demand to reconsider the Decision of Disinvestment of Air India

SHRI ANIL DESAI: The Union Cabinet has given its approval for Air India's disinvestment and set up a Committee to work out how the decision would be implemented. According to the Government, the airline with its huge debt could not be continued to be funded. Air India earned passenger revenue almost 20 per cent lower than the projected target. It was due to lack of aircraft availability, faulty deployment, low utilization of human resources and lack of ancillary revenue. Air India's prospects were turned into losses due to mismanagement in granting bilateral agreements with foreign countries. Several decisions taken by the management as per the guidelines of the Aviation Ministry proved detrimental to the health of Air India. Moreover, the employees are suffering, since their recognised Unions and associations are never consulted in decision-making process. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to reconsider its decision to sell this National Carrier.

(Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu, Shri Husain Dalwai Shri P.L.Punia associated.)

10. Demand to take Immediate Action to curb Racial Practice of Discrimination in Elite Clubs in Delhi

SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: An incident of human disgrace happened in an elite social club in Delhi, forcing a Khasi woman to leave the club for violation of the dress code imposed on guests as she was dressed in her own traditional attire of Jainsem. India has consistently been raising at international fora the sub-human treatment meted out to its citizens on racial discrimination in developed countries in the Western Hemisphere. Such incidents of reinforcing social apartheid on a section of its own citizens need to be condemned in the strongest terms possible. There are many such clubs functioning in the national capital serving only the elite society. These clubs occupying prime Government land in New Delhi should be closed down and the space be utilized for public utility projects. I urge the Government of to crack the whip on this abhorrent practice.

(Shri P.L.Punia associated.)

11. Demand to take Appropriate Action against the Persons involved in Adulteration of Food supplied to the Public Distribution System

SHRI P.L.PUNIA: Under the Food Safety and Standard Act, 2016, regular monitoring and inspection are carried out for the food products being distributed under the Public Distribution System. Under the Act, there are provisions for punitive action in the cases in which samples of foods are found not to be conforming to the standard. However, such things are on papers only. During the year 2016-17 a total of 45,085 samples were sent to the Government laboratories and 42,857 samples were analyzed. Out of which 7,515 samples were found to be adulterated and misbranded, in which 4,694 cases were filed and convictions happened in only 288 cases. The offenders were let off after penalizing in 1,049 cases. The number of samples of adulterated and misbranded food products was the highest in the states of Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. It is, therefore, requested to take punitive action in the adulterated and misbranded samples of food-grains and a probe be ordered at the Central level keeping in view the rampant corruption in the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh.

(Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu associated.)

12. Demand to settle the Unrest among the Resident Doctors of Akhil Bharti Ayurveda Sansthan, in Sarita Vihar, Delhi

SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: All India Institute of Ayurveda, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi is an autonomous Institute under the Ministry of AYUSH. Actually, the resident doctors of this Institute are not being paid any stipends and salaries thereby creating unrest among these doctors for the past few days. These doctors went on a strike on the 10th and 11th July for their demands to be met. The resident doctors accused the Hospital Management of not providing the doctors the appropriate information about the rules for paying stipends. And, the Hospital Management has created a situation of crisis for the doctors and the patients. It is, therefore, my appeal to this Government to immediately settle unrest among the resident doctors of this Institute.

(Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu associated.)

13. Impact of Demonetization and Flood on Tomato Prices

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Tomato is a household staple without which no meal is complete. Despite a good monsoon season, tomato prices have escalated to Rs. 60-80 per kg in retail markets, across the country. When demonetization was rolled out, the tomato prices went as low as Rs. 2-4 per kg. Since the farmers were not able to recover money by summer, they terminated the crop, the impact of which is being felt now. The demonetization along with heavy flooding has resulted in the rise of tomato prices which needs to be seen immediately by the Central Government.

(Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu, Shrimati Chhaya Verma, Shri Jairam Ramesh associated.)

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Secretary-General.

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**ERRATA TO THE SUPPLEMENT TO SYNOPSIS OF
DEBATE DATED 31st July, 2017**

Page No.	Line No.	Correction
184	23	Read 'Mandan' as 'Mandal'.
185	22	Add 'that' after 'say'.