

**RAJYA SABHA**

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**\*SUPPLEMENT**

**TO**

**SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

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**(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)**

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**Thursday, August 3, 2017/ Shravana 12, 1939 (Saka)**

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**SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION**

**India's Foreign Policy and Engagement with Strategic Partners -  
*Contd.***

**SHRI SATISH CHANDRA MISRA:** Today all the Member's have expressed their views on India's foreign policy. If we don't remain strong and secure among our neighbours, we will have to seek help from other powerful countries. Stand-off between India and China over Doklam area raises serious concerns. We need to increase our defence preparedness and boost defence spending to strengthen our forces.

We are discussing foreign policy, today. Government of Jammu and Kashmir is being run with your partnership. You should save the country first. Country should come first to you. This should not be the case that if your government falls in some State, you will lose one State. You should not stop talks with Pakistan, otherwise you will be in war. When you are not in war, you should keep the doors open for talks. We should have an objective in our diplomacy. Your first and foremost objective should be of ensuring safety of the citizens of the country and also the soldiers of the security forces. We

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

should move forward keeping in view this diplomacy. Our diplomacy should not be of increasing the number of martyrs. There should not be politics of vote-bank. This kind of thinking is not good.

**SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN:** Our country's Foreign Policy is based on a very long and rich tradition and merits all support in furtherance of national interest. Our contribution on the global platform has been significant on the international fora. Since Independence we have also faced several challenges. Pakistan poses as a major irritant in the peace and prosperity of our country. Further, cross-border dispute with China, even after the bitter War of 1962, still continues. In the last three years, our relation with the neighbours has probably reached the lowest point vis-à-vis Pakistan, Nepal and Maldives. Nepal, which is culturally, religiously and linguistically very close to India, has drifted away significantly towards China. So is the case with Maldives. These are trying times for us. Important strategic decisions need to be taken. Besides diplomacy, which is extremely important, we also need to keep in mind that China has a huge economic interest with India and enjoys an annual trade of more than 40 billion dollars with India, which should be leveraged to build and maintain relations with our country. However, message should also not go that our markets are open and so are our borders. We have huge strategic, economic and defence interests with the US. We also have to balance our relations vis-à-vis Russia which has been our traditional partner in good and bad days. The aspect of global economic slowdown needs to be addressed with great concern. The fall of oil prices and resultant impact on the Gulf economies is hugely affecting employment opportunities of our citizens. In the House, as different political parties with different ideologies, we may differ on issues, but I hope, once on the global platform, it should be the voice of India.

**SHRI SWAPAN DASGUTA:** One of the most interesting self-serving myths which we have created for ourselves is the belief that there is something called a bipartisan foreign policy. But there is very little bipartisan and there is a lot of fears and disagreements which mark our approaches to foreign policy. That is one aspect of an

approach to foreign policy, which we see that the primacy of the neighbourhood is what determines India. That is what gives India its power; that is what gave Indian always its power. There is another vision of foreign policy, and I don't think that can be categorized along party lines. But we have pursued different foreign policies depending various Prime Ministers and different administrations. There have been various people today who have said that we have become a poodle of America and we have become subservient to some other forces. In 1962 when we were confronted by the Sino-Indian war, we had sought help from the United States. And had another approach, which was in 1971, when we faced an imminent war and had a very pragmatic and expedient understanding with the then Soviet Union. It is not a question of which alliance is where. It is a question of what suits us at which point.

The issue of Israel has again been raised. Israel can be our biggest friend. Israel is a window to a larger opportunity. Now this Government, to a large extent, has redefined Foreign Policy, but not in terms of what happened 10 years ago. There has been a large element of continuity. The real re-orientation of our Foreign Policy has happened in different ways. Firstly, the emphasis has been on developing capacity. We have a legacy problem. It is the slow pace of decision making in India. We have to inculcate the quickness of decision making. The biggest ambassadors of India have been overseas Indians, and you have to give them the pride, you have to give them a certain stake in our country. I compliment the External Affairs Minister for the human touch which she has brought in. She has made every Indian feel a part of our Foreign Policy. The Prime Minister has given a certain pride, certain flexibility, certain outreach despite the mocking.

**SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDDY:** I would like to bring to your notice the general perception of the people of rural Andhra Pradesh on the Foreign Policy of the Government of India as of today. The people of rural India feel that they are secure. In 2017-18 Budget, there is a significant decline in the financial aid to the neighboring countries, particularly to Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and

Myanmar. As we have not been able to fulfil our commitments made to other countries, it leads to the question of India's credibility. The second issue is about Indo-US partnership under President Donald Trump. He pulled the US out of the historic Paris Climate Accord saying that it is unfairly advantageous to India. The US is polluting the planet more than any other country. Without USA it will not be possible for the historic Paris Agreement to have any meaningful impact. The third issue is H1B visas. President Donald Trump signed an executive order in April, 2017 to promote 'Buy American and Hire American' policy. This has adversely affected those who want to migrate to America on immigration visas. So, this issue has to be addressed. The next issue is about Trump Policy against immigrants. Trump Administration has released an aggressive plan to stop illegal migration, warning that all the undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States are subject to deportation at any point of time. So, this issue has to be addressed. The last issue is about Indo-China relationship. India has a huge trade deficit with China. China has put so many barriers on the entry of Indian companies while the Foreign Direct Investment from China to India is flowing uninterrupted. I request the hon. Minister to address all the issues.

**SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:** The Minister is very considerate and responsive to every Indian in the problem anywhere in the world. In view of changing equations in the world we want to become world leader and not a mute spectator. If the Indian foreign policy is measured by the number of trips our Prime Minister has gone on, it is a grand success. He has made India many new friends and tried to woo them to invest in India. But, in reality, what has India achieved? Pakistan is becoming more aggressive than ever before. Nepal blame us for the blockade. Nepalese, who loved the Indian cricket now support team that plays against India. In Bangladesh, all our eggs are put into one basket. About Maldives, which side are we on? We suddenly ignored Palestine. Are we standing on the side of justice? Have we ever had strategy about Sri Lanka? Today, China is everywhere. When it comes to Indo-US relationship, it has always been a one way street. Despite accusations of the US President the typical US strategy about WalMart, subsidy to farmers, curbing on the

H1B Visas etc. has played out very well over the decades. Another important issue which was brought up at WHO negotiations was the peace clause. Time has come for us to find a permanent solution. Are we to listen the world markets as to what to do. The hostilities in Sri Lanka were supposed to have ended in 2009 there has been a clamour on both the countries to rehabilitate the Sri Lankan Tamils. There are still people over there who have't been rehabilitated. What about the Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu? They have been here for generations. DMK has always been asking for citizenship to those who don't want to go back. India is their homeland. So consider giving them citizenship. With regard to fishermen's issues, we should negotiate for the fishing rights near Katchatheevu. A Committee was to be set up with members of the fishermen community from Sri Lanka and from Tamil Nadu. What is the outcome of it? A country can be strong only when it is inclusive in terms of peace, development and comfort etc. Food security is important. People are fighting in Kadiramangalam. It is a fertile belt. If you are going to ruin food security then there can be no security in this country.

**SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:** What is strange is while most of the members are criticizing the Government on Foreign Policy, they are appreciating the Minister. Everyone is telling that the Minister is good but the Government has created mess. The realistic role that she is suppose to have is not vested in her. Perhaps the Government's Foreign Policy has never been criticized to this extent in the house in the past. Some Members have even pointed out that to-day nobody is with us. Our relations have gone sour with all our neighbors. For the first time we are facing the situation of conflict on two borders. Almost all Members have spoken about the border dispute with China. From China's side there spokes persons and even the President are speaking their viewpoint while information given to us are based on the sources. The prevalent atmosphere with China today is very dangerous. The 'belt and road' initiative of the China should not have been boycotted. We should have worked with them for development. Regarding relations with Nepal we can see that every citizen of Nepal is against us, although that country is considered to be a Hindu Nation. Sushmaji tried her best to reopen the blockade by convening meeting

of the consultative committee but the atmosphere has gone from bad to worse. How are we going to improve it? The Ongoing river dispute is yet to be resolved with Bangladesh. The bill to resolve the border dispute was brought by our Government on three occasions but you had opposed it. Today after coming to power you found it to be a good bill and got it passed with all of us supporting it. Sri Lanka is gradually coming under the influence of China. People of that country are the Sinhalese who belonged to Bengal and Odisha. But we failed even to take care of them. At the time of coup in Maldives, Shri Rajeev Gandhi had dispatched troops to that country. Those were the relations with Maldives in the past. Slowly and slowly all our neighbors are leaving us. Bhutan has special strategic significance but what is happening today, that even that might leave us and side with China. We always had dispute with Pakistan. It has two types of Governments. One is democratically elected and the other is the Army has significant role there. What happened to bus diplomacy of Vajpayee ji. He went there and met Nawaz Sharif but on the other hand we saw Kargil war. The situation of Pakistan is peculiar and we have to understand this.

At present, our policy with Pakistan on Kashmir is in very bad shape. If you have not boasted in this regard at the time of Dr. Manmohan Singh's Government, you don't have to face criticism, today. You had just one surgical strike which had happened earlier also. It had happened three or four times during UPA Government, but you are boasting just one surgical strike. The Government is trying to show through Media that Indian Prime Minister is getting honour in America for the first time. I want to say that Ex. Prime Ministers of India like Jawahar Lal Nehru, Smt. Indira Gandhi, Dr. Manmohan Singh etc. had also received same honour in America. Indian Prime Minister had always a role in the world. There is a need to understand Pakistan and to improve relationship with the China also. At the time 1971 war entire Muslim world was standing with India. We should maintain balance in relationship with Israel. Now, our relationship with Russia is not so strong as earlier. Today, the situation has reached to this level that Russian army is doing military exercise with Pak Army. As far as relationship with America is concerned, Atal Ji and

the then President of USA Bill Clinton were having a very good personal relationship. Today, there is a need to established similar kind of relationship with USA. But, in the case of H1B visa or PPP, we are not getting proper response from USA. The remarks made by USA on India with regards to Paris Climate Pact were very hurtful. There is a need to make strong relationship with Iran. The progress regarding Port partnership with Iran is going on a very slow pace. On the issue of Ukraine, India should stand with Russia. Instead of 'maximum publicity and minimum thought', the Government should work on the basis of 'maximum thought and minimum publicity', otherwise foreign policy of the Government would be criticized.

**SHRI D. RAJA:** I would like to congratulate the Minister of External Affairs for her sincere efforts to help Indians who are in trouble outside the country. We are discussing a very serious subject. It is said that Foreign Policy is an extension of domestic policy and we know how disastrous certain domestic policies are and it has its own reflection on our Foreign Policy. Foreign Policy is not about Prime Minister's visits to different countries, or his engagement with NRI's etc. The Foreign Policy is about how India occupies its position in the comity of nations, how India contributes in shaping the development of the world etc. It is all about pursuing an independent, sovereign Foreign Policy. We did support all those people in the world who were fighting for their own Independence. In the post-Independent India also, we tried to pursue an independent policy as part of the Non-Aligned Movement. But now we are succumbing to certain pressures of foreign powers. We assume ourselves as subordinate to some super powers. While discussing the Foreign Policy, we should keep in mind our country's interest and what is that country's interest? So, far as the present stand-off between India and China is concerned, I would like to say that China is our neighbour and both the countries are Members of BRICS and several other organizations. It is in the interest of both countries that this stand-off should be brought to an end. In 1993, India and China had signed the Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement. Under the agreement, there are mechanisms that India and China can use to put an end to this standoff. We cannot go in for some kind of confrontation or military conflicts with our own

neighbours. As far as Pakistan is concerned, it should be treated as a nation; it is not a religion. You will have look at Pakistan as a nation and take up issues. India has a moral responsibility on Sri Lanka to take up the cause of Sri Lankan Tamils who are denied of justice even after the end of war. I would also like to know why is India not getting a Permanent Seat in the Security Council? We are not objecting the hon. Prime Minister visiting Israel. But, the point is, UN has proposed a two-step solution. I wanted to know whether India is approving of this two-step solution or not.

**SHRI PARTAP SINGH BAJWA:** Since time immemorial, whenever there was an invasion of Hindustan, the invaders came from the Central Asia. At that time the people of Punjab fought against those invaders and even to-day we are fighting against them. I urge upon the Government to maintain an atmosphere of peace so that the minorities may feel safe in the country. Al-Qaeda, Taliban or other Islamic forces cannot fight the Western world. In fact, they might make India their next epicentre. I want to ask the Minister of External Affairs as to how she will deal with it? Now, China is on their side. What is our policy? There is no body with us today. Countries like Russia are no more with us. If you do not bring about improvement in your policies, the minorities will be in great danger. The foreign policy of this Government has completely failed. We need to reframe our policies. We will have to maintain closer friendly relations with our allies. In the year 1971, Shrimati Indira Gandhi was instrumental in the bifurcation of Pakistan and at that time the Islamic countries sided with us. Today, countries like Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives are not with our side. Security on our larger coastal line should also be strengthened. If we want to defend our country, then its policy has to be changed to foster the spirit of national unity. The country is more important than the parties and power.

**SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY:** I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister some of the problems of the North Eastern region so that those problems are resolved while including them in the agenda of the issues pertaining to the foreign policy. The larger problem of the North-Eastern region is linked to the foreign



immigrants who keep on moving to this region from Bangladesh. Several protests were held in the North- Eastern region and an accord was signed in the year 1985. As per the accord, it was pledged to deport those people who migrated to the North-Eastern region since 1971. But this accord has not yet been implemented. We have even failed to deport those illegal immigrants who moved to this region much earlier. It is a vital issue of our country. I, therefore, would like to say that talks should be held with Bangladesh to resolve this problem by making it an item of agenda of issues pertaining to the foreign policy. We must find ways to resolve the issue of infiltration of Bangladeshis and repatriate those who have entered the country and are living here. Our former Prime Minister had signed an agreement with Bhutan to extend railway line upto Bhutan, but it did not see the light of the day. It is reported by Bhutan side that they are not treated well by Rail Ministry when they come here for dialogue. The Minister of External Affairs should take note of this and resolve the issue so that our relations with Bhutan may remain strong and cordial. At the same time, we also need to address the issues that plague our relationship with China so that it may not exacerbate further.

**SHRI NARESH GUJRAL:** Today, India is emerging as a vital economic super power and the world is looking at us with admiration and awe because we have the highest growth rate in the world. But the way China is investing in the economies of all the neighbours should be a cause of worry for this country. While we want these economies to develop, we should also be concerned with the way China is virtually taking over infrastructure in some of our neighbouring countries. I feel we have no choice but to continue the dialogue process with Pakistan. We have to show magnanimity while dealing with our neighbours. Russia has always been a very valuable ally. With America, the Prime Minister has ensured that our relationships improved and he has a good chemistry with the leaders in Europe, in Africa, in Japan, and I commend him for that. One problem that is worrying the nation today is the stand-off with China. I feel the Government should negotiate with them from a 'principled' position to protect India's vital interests.

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ), replying to the discussion,**

**said:** The face is completely different from the views as expressed by some Members in the House. While Pandit Jawharlal Nehru earned respect for his Foreign Policy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi helped India rediscover its pride and the outlook of the world towards India is completely different today, as rightly articulated by Sh. Vinay P. Sahasrabuddhe. Regarding the issue of our ties with our neighbours as raised by some Members, I would like to say that as far as relations with the neighboring countries are concerned, the country that comes forward to help first, belongs to friends category. Whether it was the water shortage in Maldives or flood in Sri Lanka or, for that matter, the earthquake that ravaged Nepal, India was the first country to extend its helping hand to them. So, the blame that we are not a friendly nation has no basis. The fact is that no PM had visited Nepal for the last 17 years out of which you were in power for 11 years.

If you are concerned about Hambantota, Colombo or Gwadar port, I want to tell you that these all problems emerged during your time. So, Today you do not blame our foreign policy that we created the problem of Colombo, Gwadar port and Hambantota. India has very good relation with Bangladesh. As far as Bhutan is concerned it is not only friend but it is neighbour and dearest friend of india. You have asked about our roadmap with Pakistan? We invited all SAARC countries for oath taking ceremony. All invitees from Pakistan attended the ceremony. They not only participated in the ceremony but also we held a bilateral meeting with them next day. On 9th December, 2015 I participated in "Heart of Asia Conference" in Islamabad. We named this dialogue as "comprehensive bilateral dialogue". Since no other country will be included in this dialogue So, we changed its name. As far as initiative from our side is concerned, our Prime Minister's visit to Lahore from Kabul was the part of this initiative. If someone says that we have not taken initiative for peace with Pakistan, we did not extend the hand of friendship, it is not correct. The situation changed following the encounter of Burhan Wani and Nawaj Sharif saheb called him freedom fighter and also declared him martyred. The relations became bitter thereafter.

We did make the roadmap of peace, friendship, stability and agreement with Pakistan but terrorism and dialogue both can't go together. The day terrorism stops the dialogue will resume. This is the roadmap. You talked about China. As long as Doklam is concerned I am sorry to say that instead of consulting the leadership of India, the leader of largest opposition party called on Chinese ambassador. But we thought that it would be better if all the political parties are informed about the situation so I called their meeting for two days and informed them about the incidents.

Patience in language is very necessary to resolve any matter. If you loose it, if you excite you can never resolve a problem. We read out our stand and this is our practice. Sharad ji, while giving an example said that he had faced the same situation and they kept patience. No problem can be resolved with war. Dialogue is required to address a problem. You said, enhance your military might. But no country is recognized by its military might. Today countries are known by their economic capacity. China is making huge investment in our increasing economic capacity. We are not only negotiating Doklam with China but bilateral relations are also being discussed. So far as H1 visa is concerned, let me inform you that Prime Minister Modi ji provided spouse visa in 2015. It was not there before. One more issue of LEMOA was raised. It is only a facilitation agreement. There is no provision to setup any base. This is the success of our foreign policy that today America and Russia both countries are with us. Israel is our friend but we can not let down Palestinian cause.

First time, mechanism for Joint Commission Meeting was got evolved in our Government's regime and I myself attended to the Joint Commission Meeting with Palestinian Foreign Minister. Apart from me, our President and the Prime Minister have also visited Palestine at other occasions and Palestinian president had too visited India. Our Prime Minister visited Israel at the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Israel. Palestine is taking our relations with Israel positively and has urged India to get its issues with Israel resolved as India has good relations with Israel. As I had not got opportunity to speak in Bandung Conference, I could not refer Pandit

Nehru. As on date, India is the best friend of Arab countries. First time, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi was invited as the chief guest on the Republic Day in our country. The Prime Minister was conferred Saudi's highest civilian honour on his visit there. The rescue of a large number of our countrymen along with others from Yemen was only possible because our good relations both with Saudi Arab and Yemen. There are so many challenges in today's world. Even if India is not standing alone; Instead, USA and Russia together with many European countries are our friend and it shows success of our foreign policy.

The Bandung and Asia-Africa Conferences were held at different places on different dates. Today, the Prime Minister is shaping agenda at global fora. He has spoken on different issues like, black-money, terrorism, International Solar Alliance and poverty alleviation in different Meets. In Asthana, he said that there are differences between countries and we too have boundary dispute. Let us not convert our differences into dispute. POK is our integral part. Whole Kashmir is ours. CPEC is passing through 400 Kilometers of POK. OBOR is the matter of territorial integrity. It is matter of our sovereignty. Wherever, there is a question of security and question of Indian fishermen, we vehemently register our protest with Sri Lanka. Wherever, there is specific role of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in multilaterals, he is always accompanying the PM. Whenever I visit foreign country, I not only meet the Minister of Foreign Affairs there, but I meet the President and the Prime Minister of that country.

I would like to read out our stand on China. Our relations with China have recently come under renewed focus due to developments in the Doklam area in the Sikkim Sector. Our concerns emanate from Chinese actions on the ground, which have implications for the determination of tri-junction boundary point between India, China and Bhutan, and the alignment of India- China boundary in the Sikkim Sector.

Since 2012, we have not held any discussions on the tri-junction with Bhutan. The Chinese action in the Doklam area is, therefore, of concern. With regard to the boundary in Sikkim Sector,

there are still steps to be covered before the boundary is finalised. This understanding has been reflected in the Common Understanding of December 2012 in point no. 12. During the 8th Special Representatives Meeting in June 2006, the Chinese side had handed over a Non Paper for separate agreement on the boundary in Sikkim Sector. Subsequently, in Special Representatives' meetings, the Chinese side has made the proposal for finalising the boundary in Sikkim Sector thus clearly confirming that the boundary in the Sikkim Sector is not yet finalized.

We have noted that the Chinese side has selectively quoted parts of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's letter of 22 March 1959 pertaining' to the India-China boundary in the Sikkim Sector. Prime Minister Nehru's assertion was clearly based on the boundary alignment as shown in our (Indian) published maps. India always believes that peace and tranquility in the India-China border areas is an important pre-requisite for smooth development of our bilateral relations. We will continue to engage with the Chinese side through diplomatic channels to find a mutually acceptable solution. In keeping with the unique and traditional friendship with Bhutan, we will also continue to maintain close consultation and coordination with the Royal Government of Bhutan.

*Discussion concluded.*

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## **GOVERNMENT BILL**

### **The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2017**

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR):** I move that the Bill further to amend the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Act, 2014, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

**SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH:** While supporting this Bill I would like to make some points in this regard. We have now created three categories of IIITs in the country, namely the International Institute of Information Technology, Indian Institute of Information Technology (Public-Private Partnership) and today, we are passing Indian Institute of Information Technology which will be funded entirely by the Central Government. After passing of this bill, an IIIT in Kurnool will be set up which will be in consonance with Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act, 2014. I would request the hon. Minister to rationalize this structure of IIITs because IIITs, like IITs and IIMs have become a brand and we should have one common legislation covering all IIITs. Further, please take expeditious action to fulfill the commitment of setting up of Central University, one agricultural university and one tribal university under the Thirteenth Schedule of the Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act, 2014. Sir, IIITs cannot function in isolation of IITs and IITs cannot function in isolation of universities. Therefore, we need to bring all these institutions working in a collaborative mode. There is 39 per cent vacancies in the old IITs. Sir, IIT, Delhi, has a 45 per cent vacancy in faculty. There is no shortage of youngsters wanting good education but, there is a shortage of teachers providing good education. I would like the hon. Minister to address the question why our institutions of higher education and excellence are not attracting the best faculty.

**SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:** The Government are going to do this work under the Andhra Pradesh reorganization commitment. In all the institutes, whether it is IIT, or other top institutes, everywhere problem about faculty is being faced. The Government is having a big responsibility that it should take steps so that the best talent of the world should be available to our students. Currently, there are top 100 best institutes in the world, but none of the Indian Institute is included in this list. A detailed policy should be there. All over the world Indian IIT graduates are playing a dominant role. As a result of slow down in the international market, a large number of children are coming back to India. As far as quality is concerned, the talented students are also passing out and average students are also passing out. Special efforts are required to work on

the emerging technologies in the information technology sector. A high degree to co-ordination is required in all the IIT institutes.

**SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:** The challenge which we are facing today, is how to recruit faculty. The IITs are not lowering the bar for faculty. Why is nobody joining the faculty there in the IIT Madras? A study has been done to find out why students and also teachers are not joining there. The quality of education and research in IITs are of international standards. I would like to know whether the faculty and also the number of students in these premier institutes will be improved.

**SHRI AHAMED HASSAN:** I would like to highlight a few issues being faced by the students as also the areas which should be considered for further scrutiny relating to our current system of education in the country. Do we have enough premier institutes in the country for the aspiring students? Are we able to provide job opportunities to everyone who is graduating from these premier institutes? The percentage of placements from these institutes is declining year by year. Who is responsible for this? The next point is about IT layoffs. IT professionals are losing their jobs every year.

**SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN:** By amending the bill, the way to include Indian Institute of Information Technology and Indian Manufacturer Entrepreneurs along with other institutes in Indian Act will be cleared. With it they will get the right to provide degrees to the students along with the status of the institute of the national importance. It will create employment opportunities in the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh. At least one such Institute should be set up in Bihar. It is requested that courses with all the subjects should be started in IIT, Patna like other places. The engineering college in the Bhagalpur is facing shortage of faculty, it is requested that this shortage should be removed. Infrastructure is lacking, it should be resolved, faculty positions should be filled and cost of education should be reduced and its quality should be improved. This bill is very important keeping in view the social, economic and educational development of the country.

**SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:** Our IITs are very important because of the question of spending in education. Government is spending only 1.2 per cent of our GDP on higher education. Without public spending in education, the situation cannot change. The educational infrastructure concerning information technology in our country is not handled in a proper way, particularly, in the private sector. A majority of these private colleges lack a proper IT Department. They don't even have the computers. The students don't get the idea about the hardware, they are only taught about the software. A national course for all IT courses in public as well as private sector should be enunciated so that standardization of IT education can be ensured. Several IT companies are taking fresh engineering graduates through campus interview. The IT graduates are neglected. These companies must employ properly-educated IT students having the knowledge of both software and hardware. Without an increase in public spending in education, the situation cannot change. These mushroomed private engineering institutes are not at all producing the graduates having proper knowledge. According to the latest BRICS report, the average spending per year in engineering education is the lowest in India among the BRICS countries.

**SHRI VEER SINGH:** This is the fifth Institute of National Importance which has been set up in Andhra Pradesh. It is matter of joy. Establishing an institute of national importance in Kurnool is a welcome step. I request the Government to open two or three more such institutes to facilitate children of Uttar Pradesh. I request that steps should be taken to facilitate admission of students belonging to scheduled castes and appointment of SC professors in such institutes of national importance as per the reservation criteria. I also request the government to check the problem of brain drain.

**SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN:** I would like to flag only four concerns while supporting this Bill. Laying-off around 56,000 employees in near future and decrease in recruitment through campus interviews is a matter of great concern. Securing jobs by only five lakh out of fifteen lakh engineers produced every year really



should be taken care of. Our curriculum needs to be revisited according to the needs of the market and the companies. Poor students must be given scholarships to help them in getting admission in IITs. while raising the quantity of the institutions, we have to also make sure that the quality of the institutions is also made proper. Lastly, I appeal that a permanent campus should be provided to the IIT Pune at the earliest.

**SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU:** The bifurcation of the State of Andhra Pradesh is bearing fruits in the form of several higher education institutions. I would like to request the Government to look towards the appeals and the pleas of Telangana people for establishing additional IITs in Telangana for enhancement of higher education in the State.

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR), replying to the debate, said:** I thank all the Members who have supported this Bill. We will have a detailed discussion after introduction of IIM Bill next week. Hence, I move that the Bill be passed.

*The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted.*

*Clauses etc., were adopted.*

*The Bill, was passed.*

**SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,**  
*Secretary-General.*

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**ERRATA TO THE SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE DATED**

**3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2017**

<b>Page No.</b>	<b>Line No.</b>	<b>Correction</b>
235	32	Delete 'will'
236	6	Read 's' as 'a'