

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, August 2, 2017/ Shravana 11, 1939 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Need to Review Law regarding Cheque Bounce Cases

SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: Government has come down heavily on corruption through its steps like jan dhan yojna, demonetisation, digital transaction and implementation of GST in the country. Action against corruption should continue unabated. Hence, I request the Government for enacting a stringent law to restrict cheque bounce cases.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

2. Concern over the Increasing Complaints of Suppressing the Press and Electronic Media

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: I would like to bring to your notice consistent attacks being made on electronic media and press. Economic and Political Weekly has been a good weekly for years. They have disclosed two cases of huge corruption in their recent research papers. Consequently, attempts were made to remove them

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from the trust. Famous journalists like Shri Nikhil Wagle and Shri Sidharth Vardarajan and Shri P. Sainath, a famous writer, were also harassed. Hindi channel of NDTV was also suppressed to close and a series of action by CBI and Income Tax Department was taken against them to suppress them. All these actions are examples of killing of democracy which must be stopped.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

3. Proposal to privatise Kamarajar Port Ltd. in Tamil Nadu

SHRI D. RAJA: Kamarajar Port is the first corporatised major port in the country. It has been formed with the shares of Government of India and the Chennai Port Trust in Chennai. The Port has been making profits and paying dividends to the Government. Now, the Government has decided for outright sale of the Port. Perhaps, it is being done in order to help a business house. Kamarajar Port is the pride not only of Tamil Nadu but also of the entire country. Why is the Government equity in that Port being sold? This action of the Government is not only anti-people but also anti-national. I oppose this action of the Government and ask them to reconsider its decision.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

4. Need to amend the Relevant Law to help the Minor Rape Victims

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: The Supreme Court recently denied termination of pregnancy of a minor rape-victim girl who was pregnant for 32 weeks as it was too late according to the medical board's advice. Government had introduced the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill in 2014 which provides for extension of abortion limit from 20 weeks to 24 weeks but it is still pending. Prime Minister's Office has also returned this Bill directing to ensure strict compliance of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971. In view of this ten-year rape victim innocent girl, I would like to urge upon the Government to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: I would add to the hon. Member's intervention by saying that the law is meant for human beings and human beings cannot be made to fit in the ambit of law. In this case, if permission of abortion is denied, the question arises what kind of life would the rape victim lead? I also urge to amend the MTP Act, 1971 which is pending for three years. This is extremely important because in the last few weeks the Supreme Court has had seven such cases which each one causes anguish in the country.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

5. Pathetic Condition of Destitute Widows in Vrindavan (U.P.)

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: The holy city of Vrindavan has now become a destitute home of widows in India. As per National Commission for Women's report in 2010, 78 per cent of the destitute women in Vrindavan are widows. The families of these widows have left them in Vrindavan to live on their own. They totally depend on the State, ashrams and pilgrims for their existence. They are deprived of their basic human rights also because of their widow status. It is the need of the hour to look into the deplorable living conditions of these widows and provide them with necessary aid to restore their dignity.

I urge upon the Government to conduct appropriate study on the living conditions of widows in Vrindavan and revamp the relevant schemes to address their issues.

(Several hon'ble Members associated.)

6. Alleged Malpractices in Selection of India's World Athletics Championship Team

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: It is believed that the office-bearers of Indian Athletic Federation have made some foul play in the selection of the team. The best example is of P.U. Chitra who won Gold medal in the women's 1500 mts. race at the Asian Athletic Championship but she has been expelled from the Indian team and unfortunately she could not be included in the Indian team despite court's order because of denial by the International Association of Athletic Federation. The whole mess was created due to the unhealthy

practice of the Indian Athletic Federation. The whole selection process was orchestrated based on a planned drama. If we closely examine the Indian team, it is evident that more than half a dozen members are not related to sports directly or indirectly. It is shame that eligible and talented athletes are expelled while a number of unauthorized and ineligible persons are selected. This shows the lack of transparency in the process of selection and vested interest of the office-bearers. Hence an urgent intervention of the Central Government is essential.

(Shri T.K. Rangarajan, Shri Tapan Kumar Sen and Shri K. C. Ramamurthy associated.)

7. Pension Anomalies in Respect of Ex-Reservist Soldiers

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: I would like to bring to notice of the Government that discrimination is being done in providing facilities to the Ex-reservist soldiers who had been sent to their homes under reserve after their 10 years' service despite their eligibility. While the minimum pension with respect to a soldier has been revised time to time, these soldiers have always been overlooked and denied their genuine right keeping their pension unrevised till now. Government had utilized their services for two years even after their retirement. Not only this, their services were utilized even in 1965 and 1971 in the wars with Pakistan. But, these Ex-reservist soldiers are being made deprived of revised pension which is gross injustice to them and their family also. I request to provide facilities in the line of Seventh Pay Commission and One Rank-One-Pension.

GOVERNMENT BILL

The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2017

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): I beg to move that the Bill further to amend the Companies Act, 2013, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration. *(Speech not commenced)*

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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