

## RAJYA SABHA

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### \*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

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(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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Friday, August 4, 2017/ Shravana 13, 1939 (Saka)

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### MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

#### 1. Loss of Lives Due to Illegal Mining in Jharkhand

**SHRI SANJIV KUMAR:** Five people died in an accident of illegal mining in a coal mine of Giridih Baniadih Project under Central Coal Fields Ltd. on 27th May, 2017. During enquiry, it came to light that CCL Officers and criminals are behind this illegal mining. Those who have been killed, are poor people. Such incidents are common in Koyalanchal. I have been raising this issue before the House for many years, but no impact is visible on ground. I demand an independent enquiry into Giridih-Baniadih Project incident of 27th May, 2017.

**SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:** I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member. Since January this year till today, more than forty people have died, and the entire Jharia belt has become a fire underground. The Government must intervene in the situation.

*(Shri Harivansh and Shri Ritabrata Banerjee associated.)*

## **2. Need to set up an Institute of Tourism and Travel Management in Maharashtra**

**SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:** As of now, Gwalior, Delhi, NOIDA, and Bhubaneshwar only have the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, which are called IITTMs. This number is quite insignificant and inadequate for our country. The country needs more such professional institutions to exploit the inherent resources. So far, the Ministry of Tourism has not thought of establishing an IITTM in Maharashtra. I hope, the hon. Minister of Tourism takes a view on establishing a full-fledged IITTM, either at Pune or at Kolhapur.

*(Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, Shri Anil Desai and Dr. Vikas Mahatme associated.)*

## **3. Need to run Train Nos. 68019/20 and 58031/32 in Jharkhand on Daily Basis**

**DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:** I would like to draw the attention of this House towards the problems of labourers, business men and students of Jharkhand. A local train number 68019 and 68202 used to run from Jhargram to Dhanbad. But, that was discontinued under the plea that coals under the railway line between Chandrapur and Dhanbad have caught fire. For this reason, the train can not run on this route. I believe that the train should be allowed to run upto Bokaro or Dhanbad, if possible. If it can not go upto Dhanbad, it can at least certainly go up to Agra. Besides, I would like to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister towards another train which runs from Tata Nagar to Chakulia. This is also a passenger train. Earlier, it used to run daily, but now it is being run twice a week without assigning any reason. I request that, this train should be allowed to run daily so that the labourers, students, business men and common people could get the facility.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

#### **4. Concern over Increasing Incidents of Suicide and Mental Tension in Armed Forces Personnel**

**SHRI SANJAY SETH:** I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the mental tensions prevalent in Armed Forces. Recently some days ago, CRPF Jawans thrashed one of their Commandants because he did not allow to take a sick soldier to the hospital. According to a report in a newspaper, that soldier died. This incident is a matter of concern. According to a report, every year around 100 people of our army commit suicide due to mental tension. It is not so that our top officials and Government are not aware of the reasons of this tension. The reasons are-continuous posting of soldiers in hard circumstances, non-availability of accommodation facility, not granting of leaves, non-availability of treatment facility, sub-standard foods and hard situations of living. There is a lack of dialogues between soldiers and officers also. I request the Government that uniformity should be brought in the facilities of all the armed forces at the earliest and steps should be taken to tackle the problem of mental tension.

#### **5. Need for Installation of Statue Rabindranath Tagore at Jalianwala Bagh Memorial Premises**

**SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:** The Jalianwala Bagh Massacre of 13th April, 1919 in Punjab which took a toll of thousand innocent non-violent people, is a gruesome history of cold-blooded annihilation. Rabindranath Tagore took no time in denouncing his Knighthood that had been conferred on him in 1915 to protest the extreme barbarism. It is most unfortunate that in the entire Jallianwala Bagh Memorial this very man does not find a proper place of honour. Installation of a statue of Gurudev will be a mark of respect to him. I feel deeply pained in telling this august House that this year the Assam Government has cancelled holidays in schools and colleges on the birthday of Tagore which have been continuing in the State of

Assam for long. I urge upon the Government to immediately install a statue of Tagore in the Jallianwala Bagh Memorial complex.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

## **6. Concern over Distress Sale by Cultivators in Jute Sector**

**SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY:** I would like to draw the attention of Government towards the bad plight of Jute Sector in the country. Last year, Government of India could procure 56,000 bales only while 90 lakh bales were available in the market. People had to sale their goods below MSP. This year Indian Jute Corporation has not intervene in the market as yet. For this reason, farmers are not getting the minimum support price. The anti people policy adopted by Central Government has led to the closure of 17 jute mills out of 60 jute mills last year. Out of these 7 jute mills have closed forever. The policy declared by Government this year is helping plastic lobby as the use of jute bags have been reduced.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

## **7. Use of Outdated ATR-42 for North-East by Alliance Air**

**SHRI AHAMED HASSAN:** Alliance Air was one of the important links from Kolkata to the towns of North-Eastern States and also to Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand. Kolkata Airport was the major engineering base for ATR aircraft in India. But, this situation has drastically changed since the last few years. ATR-42 aircrafts have become old and these aircrafts need to be phased out for safety and security reasons. Already ten new modern ATR 72-600 aircraft have been inducted in the fleet and the old aircraft discarded. But no new ATR 72-600 has been allotted for operations in the North-East and the Eastern region of India. One old ATR42 aircraft is still operating from Kolkata to North-Eastern towns of Shillong, Lilabari, Tezpur, Guwahati and Ranchi. Though it is security and safety threat for passengers, Alliance Air is taking the risk in complete disregard to

international aviation rules. It is clearly evident that the engineering base of ATR aircraft is gradually being shifted from Kolkata to New Delhi and also to Hyderabad. But, Kolkata base is fully capable of inspection, maintenance and repair works of ATR 72-600 aircraft. Also, it is having skilled and experienced technicians. I request the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation and the Government of India to give due importance to Kolkata.

*(Shri Tapan Kumar Sen, Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita, Shrimati Wansuk Syiem and Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy associated.)*

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### **PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS**

The following Bills were introduced:

1. The Prevention of Acid Attacks and Rehabilitation of Acid Attack Victims Bill, 2017
2. The Indian Contract (Amendment) Bill, 2017
3. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Amendment of Articles 75 and 164)
4. The Armed Forces Special Powers (Amendment) Bill, 2017
5. The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 2017
6. The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2017

### **The Central Himalayan States Development Council Bill, 2016**

**SHRI PRADEEP TAMTA, moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said:** The Himalayan area from J&K to Arunachal Pradesh is almost 2,500 km. and having geological, environmental and social conditions which are different from other regions of the country. So, the Himalayan area, including Utrakhand require a new vision. There are nearly 8 crores and 3 crores of people living in north-east and in Utrakhand, Himachal

Pradesh and J&K respectively. We have a North Eastern Council and a separate ministry for them, but a demand to have a Central Himalayan States Development Council has not been fulfilled yet. The Government of India constituted a number of commissions in this regard and they have also submitted their reports favouring a separate policy for Himalayan states. A task force was set up in the tenure of UPA-2 and that also said that a separate vision is needed for these states. People from different religions and sects and 170 tribes are living there. The Himalayan States have not sufficient resources of their own. So, a National Himalayan Environment and Development Fund, fully funded by the Centre, be made as per one of the reports for envisaging a policy for overall development of this area. Additionally, A Himalayan Development Council can be established by expanding the North Eastern Council and covering all the 11 Himalayan States. The need of having a new development council was also found place in the Shimla Declaration later on. The Himalayan States sacrificed their own interests for this country, hence Government of India should compensate them. The Centre should formulate a separate policy for their forest resources and river valley areas. There is a need to provide a suitable network of road, rail and air connectivity for the devolvement of Himalayan area. I have been fighting for the forest resources since my student life. It is very necessary to ensure that the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act are not diluted. No one can forget the tragedy of 2013 in Utrakhand. We must learn from Himalayan areas of other countries and European hilly areas where they are facing perpetual landslide. This Government had also talked about coming with a new vision paper, but nothing has happened yet. We are still using old techniques in the hilly areas. The Chhatrapati's report also mentioned about adopting new vision for development of Himalayan area. Many big projects of hydropower and dams are going on in Himalayan States and the worst sufferers are the people living there. There is no appropriate arrangement for the affected land and rehabilitation of displaced persons. If we want to keep the prosperity of the people alive, we have to save Himalayas. The Government of India will have to form a new policy for the Himalayan people. There

should be a development authority, a Ministry and a nodal agency for all Himalayan States.

**SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL:** In the northern part of India, the most dangerous calamities occur in Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. These states have their specific nature. The conditions are different there. I hope that the Government of India would definitely think over it seriously. As far as the question of industries is concerned, we have to explore the industries that can maintain the sanctity of this place. The Government of India should make an excellent centre in the State of Jammu and Kashmir that can impart knowledge to the whole country. Such a beautiful university should be established in the lap of Himalaya which can make a way for the well being of the world. Today, the 130 crore people of India are deprived of this type of education. The Government have to think in this regard as to what kind of infrastructure should be established. The Government has to think in many ways to bring these type of subjects in the purview of legislation. It is very necessary to make an arrangement for a elegant living for the people dwelling in this State. The efforts are being made to start many new schemes for the development of Jammu and Kashmir. Every human being on this globe has his own life style which should definitely get right direction. The Government would definitely think seriously for the development of that state. To bring a new light for the people of State living in the lap of Himalayas.

**SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU:** The Himalayan States - Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and some parts of hilly States have a population of more than three crore. Altogether the climate crisis has grown. In the coming 80 years, almost entire glacier volume across the Himalayas may disappear. The protection of the Himalayan ecosystem is automatically linked to the population there. Climatic complications are giving a warning to all of us. Keeping these in view, we have to evolve a scientific programme to address these problems. Still, we are not up-to-date and that is why, still, we could not have a safe passage on land to Mansarovar. We could not learn anything from those dangerous complications. These

challenges have to be thoroughly kept in mind while evolving a programme for balancing the Himalayan eco-system with the improvement of the lifestyle and livelihood standard of the population. Their livelihood is still dependent on the nature support other than the Government programmes. Keeping the climatic challenges in view, the Himalayan States have to be balanced. A national mission has to be taken up on war-footing to protect the Himalayan eco-system and the livelihood of Himalayan population. There must be a Central Council to cater to it in a multipronged way.

**DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI:** If industries are promoted in Himalayas, then Himalayas would face the danger of being deteriorated by the pollution. I support the proposals given for the development of Himalayas and Himalayan region. The areas connected with Himalayas should also be developed. The rivers originating from Himalayas are devastating the Bihar State by their floods. Hydro-power could be promoted in this region by which there can be production of electricity also.

**SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:** The States Re-organisation Act, 1956 has created zonal councils for promoting regional development. But these Zonal Development Councils did not work properly because of various reasons. The specific problems and vulnerabilities linked to the infrastructure and geography of Himalayan States do not get addressed. This bill would accelerate the industrial growth, interlink various places by rail and road, provide telecommunication facilities, provide electricity, drinking water, rural housing, provide health services, and provide educational facilities and gainful employment and take preventive measures to minimise the natural calamities. It would improve the disaster preparedness. The region is prone to cloud bursts and landslides, also the disaster risks of these three States are interlinked with each other. A common council would enhance the disaster preparedness for dealing with such hazards. The next point is about low development indicators. There are various indicators which indicate the development of the region. The per capita income in Jammu & Kashmir and in the other two States is relatively lower. This is an indicator which indicates the

low development of the region. The low education enrolment ratio is another indicator which indicates the low development. Another point is low infrastructure or lack of infrastructure development. This also indicates that there is a lack of infrastructure and lack of development. In other parts of the country, which are not part of the Himalayan Region, the primary health centres are relatively, significantly more. These are all the indicators which indicate lack of infrastructure and lack of development.

**SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:** The Himalayan Mountains are as old as any civilization in the world. It has given birth to three mighty rivers, which are a lifeline for millions of people in the country and almost in the Southeast Asia. The Himalayan vast mountain system extends to eleven States of this country. The major problems which we are facing in the Himalayas are deforestation and pollution in the region. You take nature's abundant gift to the Himalayas. It accounts for about 50 per cent of the forest coverage. The two mighty rivers, Brahmaputra and Ganges are the lifeline of the entire north Indian region. When almost the entire population is dependent on these rivers, it is the duty and responsibility of any Government to protect, preserve and develop this region. There is place named Lahaul-spiti, in Himachal Pradesh. That is a place where the people go and live only for two months in a year. Rest of the year, they have to come down from mountains and live in plains. We have to contribute towards the basic infrastructure, health, education. About 640 varieties of Orchids are grown in Arunachal. If it is properly marketed in the world, I think they can afford themselves and there is no need for any budgetary support from anybody. My great leader Shrimati Indira Gandhi had given special category status for the Indian Himalayan region wherein, 90 per cent of the budgetary support was from the Central Government and 10 per cent of the budgetary support from the State. It is my request that one should not play politics on the developmental issue, especially the people who are vulnerable to so many other things. We are facing problems in the forest region where they have been neglected. Protection of the environment and ecological are very important. If you don't take care of the ecological balance, the damage to the ozone layer due to the pollution may

increase. The Government should strengthen some of our municipalities and panchayats in these regions. They should be given financial assistance so that they are self sufficient and they can build their own infrastructure, hospitals, schools and roads.

**SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA:** The Government did not learn any lesson from the Kedarnath disaster in June 2013, as the Government is unable to understand the reasons of terrible devastation in the Central Himalayan Region during the last three decades. Till date the Government did not study the reasons for these natural disasters, nor it has prepared any roadmap in this regard, so that the people can be shared with measures to avoid these terrible devastations. Today, due to globalization and extreme commercialization, our mountainous groups have been marginalized, whereas a serious and interesting discussions are going on in the world about these areas and natives of these areas. The naturalists, anthropologists and geographers have tried to understand the process of marginalization by linking it to local circumstances and changes. Himalayas are housing infinite resources and these resources include land, water, forest, animals, and forestry like any other mountain range. This bio-diversity, energy, fertility is not only controlling the climate of whole of the India, but also a pious place of achieving the extraordinary cultural and spiritualistic upliftment. A separate Himalayan resource protection and development policy is required along with clear planning for appropriate usage. As a result of excessive commercial exploitation of the natural resources of that areas has resulted in severe natural disasters. Kedar Nath devastation, flood in Jammu and Kashmir, heavy rain, hailstorm, cloud bursts, earthquake in Nepal are just examples of these disasters. Himalayan ecology should be protected on priority basis. The community participation is not only necessary but it is also related to continued growth of the Himalayan region.

**SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH:** A Shimla Declaration was announced in 2010. The Government had initiated a number of steps for the development of the Himalayan States. We must review the policy of hydel projects in the upper reaches of the Ganga, the

Bhagirathi, the Alaknanda, the Mandakini and so on. There is a lot of concern that indiscriminate expansion of hydel projects would create a lot of problems for the people living in the Himalayan States. Whichever hydel project is taken up, there should be a 'minimum environmental flow' so that the river does not have just tunnels but, actually, water in the river. We have to re-look at the policy of hydel projects. There are a lot of ecological and environmental concerns that just cannot be wished away. The next point is about the concept of a green bonus. The states in the Himalayan regions must be compensated adequately for conserving the forests, because there is a lot of pressure to develop the forest areas, but, we know that if the more forests we destroy, the more global warming will take place. So, these States must get a green bonus for protecting the forests. If we do not protect nature, nature will hit back at us. We were very indiscriminate in the creation of infrastructure in the hilly areas. Nature will protect those who protect it. I think, we are the only civilization that worships nature. We are hell bent on destroying these environmental resources. The Central Himalayan Council will create a national awareness, not just for the development of these States, but, also for having sustainable development. In the last I would like to remind ourselves that India's first environmental movement, known as the chipko Movement took place here. I support the proposal of the Central Himalayan Development Council and I think this will go a long way in meeting the twin objectives of economic growth and environmental protection as well.

**DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:** Mountain Himalaya is not only full of forests it is also full of divine atmosphere and natural beauty. Calamities and good climate is linked with Himalayas. When any calamity comes, it means something has gone wrong in Himalayas. You will find India's divine power in all the places in different parts of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. If you look at it from environmental point of view, is going to help you not only in that area but in the entire country. You don't find this spiritual atmosphere in any other part of the world except India. The Government should consider this very valuable suggestion of forming the Central Council for Development of Himalayas. While supporting this Bill, I would

say that it is a challenge for the ruling party to make this Bill applicable, successful.

**THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES AND THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN), intervening in the debate, said:** Pradeep Tamta ji has tried to explain that like North Eastern Council there should be one more council for rest of the Himalayan states. There can be no two opinion about the fact that it is dev bhumi, Ganga is originating from there and Mansarovar is also there. But along with the development, the protection of environment is also very important. I have very carefully listened you. I would discuss some of the norms through which we will try to reach to the conclusion whether setting up of council has benefitted these three states or not. North East Council was set up in 70s. If we look at the human resource index' data from 1983 to 2012 then we will find that despite that the North East Council' ranking has gone down. About GDP ranking, Uttarakhand is on top. As far as road and railway network is concerned, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand' National Highway, Surface Road, Rail Route, all are better than North Eastern states. If we compare the data of educational institutes then Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and above all Uttarakhand is on top. If you go through it you will come to know that despite the existence of North East Council since 40 years where we are and without Council how much development has taken place in these places. In the year 2015 our Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the package of 80,000 rupees for J&K. If we talk about tragedy it can take place anywhere, anytime. It has no concerned whether there is a council or not. On 27th December, 2016 our Prime Minister laid the foundation of 'Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojana'. The object of this project is to improve the connectivity with Himalayan chardham pilgrimage centre. Expansion of railway network has been carried out in Himachal Pradesh on warfooting level. I will tell 3-4 programmes about Himalayan states. These are Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushal Yojana, MNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sichain

Yojana, Handicrafts, Design and Technology Upgradation Scheme, etc. Our all the three state governments of Himachal Pradesh, J&K and Uttarakhand are implementing the schemes regarding Himalayan glacier also. Activities have been planned for sustainable development in the mountains of the Indian Himalayan Region under the chairmanship of Dr. V.K. Saraswat. After thorough study of J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, we have issued some books. If you go through these books properly, you will yourself drop the idea of council.

We are studying in detail existing gaps in the data and knowledge about Himalayas. We are taking a comprehensive look at issues like sustainable management of land and water resources, environmental assessment and management, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, sustainable infrastructure and energy security, supplementary livelihood options and also awareness and capacity-building. We are going into the depth of everything to ensure that nothing unforeseen happens in the future. We have sanctioned 42 research projects exclusively dedicated to these Himalayan States. We have awarded 119 Himalayan Research Fellowships. Right now, we are working on developing a National Policy on Mountain Hill Regions for addressing the concerns of the people living in hilly regions of the country. Uttarakhand is one of the best developed States without any council. Various schemes are being run in the state of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh also. Constitution of any council is not solution to any problem but solution lies in adopting a comprehensive look at these problems. So, Government is committed towards all-round development of Himalayan States. I request the Hon. Member to withdraw his Bill.

**The hon'ble Member, replying to the debate, said:** I am grateful to the Government for keeping everything in detail. Our main objective is to formulate an integrate policy, authority and ministry for the whole of Himalayan region which extends to around 2,500 kilometres. A new task force and a Central Council needs to be constituted on the lines of North-eastern Council in view of different topography of Himalayan States. I would like to state that Himalayan

Council could be one of the steps in the context of the discussion held today. I hope that Government will contemplate it and also reconsider to accord status of special category to the other Himalayan States.

*The Bill was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.*

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## SPECIAL MENTIONS

### **1. Demand to release the Funds under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme for the State of Tamil Nadu**

**SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:** The state has spent 50 per cent and achieved almost 50 per cent progress in project of interlinking Thamirabarani, Karumeniyar and Nambiyar Rivers by excavating a new flood carrier canal from the existing Kannadian channel in Tirunelveli District. The Central Water Commission has approved the cost appraisal for this project to 872.45 crores under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. I urge upon the Central government to release 872.45 crores under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) under drought prone area development.

### **2. Demand to take Immediate Steps for Interlinking of Peninsular Rivers in Tamil Nadu**

**SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ:** Under the Peninsular Rivers Development Component, then the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has repeatedly urged upon the Union Government to implement the interlinking of the Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Palar-Cauvery-Vaigai Rivers. The Government of India had constituted a Special Committee for interlinking of rivers, but not much headway had been made in the matter of inter-linking of rivers so far. I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps for the interlinking of Peninsular Rivers.

### **3. Demand to allocate Captive Iron Ore Mines to Vizag Steel Plant (RINL) in Andhra Pradesh**

**SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:** Vizag Steel Plant (RINL) is the only largest industry that Andhra Pradesh was left with after bifurcation of the State but due to absence of captive mines input costs of RINL are going up exponentially and resulting in losses. I request Prime Minister to personally intervene in this matter and direct the Mines Ministry to immediately allocate captive iron ore mines to RINL.

### **4. Demand to give National Status to the *Shravani Mela* held in Bihar and Jharkhand to boost Tourism in the Region**

**SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN:** The *Shravani Mela* has of a great significance to be held in the month of Shravan in the region of Bihar and Jharkhand. Perhaps this is the long-lasting Mela in the Country. The pilgrims visiting there have to cover a long route on foot. There is a huge crisis of civic amenities on this route. If it is granted National Status it will boost up highly the tourism in the area and it will also attract the foreign tourists including domestic ones.

### **5. Demand to rescind the Order to close down Regional News Unit of All India Radio at Trichy in Tamil Nadu**

**SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:** Recently, the Union Government has issued order to close down the Regional News Unit of All India Radio at Trichy in Tamil Nadu. It would impact the jobs for more than 40 casual workers attached with Trichy RNU. Lakhs of people including students are being benefited by this Trichy AIR news unit. Closing down this news unit will adversely affect the farmers also. I appeal to the Government to rescind the order to close down the Regional News Unit of All India Radio at Trichy in Tamil Nadu.

## **6. Demand to introduce an Effective System to evaluate Bureaucrats while Considering for Promotions**

**SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY:** Of late, we have been observing corrupt practices by bureaucrats and nexus between bureaucracy and politicians. To address this, PMO has appointed a Committee of retired Secretaries to make a policy framework to assess and evaluate bureaucrats on various parameters to be taken into account, apart from annual CRs, at the time of promotions. Hence, I request PM to immediately implement the policy prepared by the Committee while considering promotions of all bureaucrats from all Services in the country and also direct States to follow the policy guidelines of the Committee to weed out inefficient and corrupt officials in bureaucracy.

## **7. Demand to clear Confusion on the Status of Implementation of House Building Advance (HBA) as Recommended by the 7<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission**

**SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN:** The Government have finalized most of the recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission but when a Central Government employee wishes to apply for HBA, the administrative departments refuse to give them HBA either on the basis of the 7<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission recommendations or on the basis of previous convention. Employees are under confusion. Hence, I request the Government to inform about the status of implementation of HBA, as recommended by the 7<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission. I also request the Government to finalize the modalities for granting HBA to Central Government employees as early as possible.

*(Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu and Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth associated.)*

## **8. Demand to Amend the Constitution to give the Status of Scheduled Castes all over India to people engaged in manual scavenging**

**SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD:** The injustice and human right violation is being done against most down trodden community in the world. The manual scavenging prohibited by law, but even now, it exists in different forms. Now designated as sewage or manhole sanitation workers. In India, due to the prevailing caste system, certain jobs are earmarked for particular communities and particular caste that have been doing this scavenging work. Even though these people are the most under-developed sections in the country, they are not getting the benefits that Scheduled Castes people all over India. A Scheduled Caste in one State may not be a Scheduled Caste in another States. Denial of caste certificate to these people has resulted in the denial of education and social welfare. Hence, to solve this grave problem, special status should be given to them all over India.

*(Shri K.K. Ragesh associated.)*

## **9. Demand to Reduce the Charges on Money Orders by the Post Office in the Country**

**SHRI SANJAY SETH:** Earlier the money used to be sent by Money Order from one place to another place. Now for transferring money, the money is sent directly into the account by banking system such as NEFT and RTGS. But even today, in remote rural areas there are no banking facilities in the villages and in rural areas people are not having bank accounts etc. and they are not fully trained in banking system. So their relatives are sending money through Money Orders. But, for Money Order facility the Department of P&T has imposed heavy charges. The charges on the facility of Money Order is too much, while it is very less through banking system. I request the Government that it should pay attention towards this and the fees should be reduced.

## **10. Demand to take Concrete Steps for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers in the country**

**SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA:** Despite constitutional provisions to stop manual scavenging, unfortunately, there are many families in country who are indulged in manual scavenging. Many of them die due to suffocation during sever cleaning without security aids and catch fatal diseases later. I urge upon the Government to equip every scavenger with latest security aids and provide them dignified alternative employments as their rehabilitation.

*(Shri Jairam Ramesh, Shri D. Raja and Shri Ananda Bhaskar Rapolu associated.)*

## **11. Need to address the Structural Issues of Education in the Universities of the Country**

**SHRI AHAMED HASSAN:** India is facing structural issues in education sector. The case of West Bengal may be studied to address these issues. During the last six years, 16 new universities have been set up there out of which 7 are state-aided. 31 New Government colleges and 16 Government-aided colleges have also been established. The state mandated a 15 percent reservation for OBC students as a result of which almost 60,000 OBC students admission to the State's UG and PG level courses in 2014-15 and almost 1,00,000 in 2015-16. The State has also established 732 Smart Classrooms in State-aided Universities, Government Colleges and Government-aided Colleges to a total cost of 22 Crores Rupees. The budget of the Swami Vivekanand Merit cum Means Scholarship Scheme has been enhanced. Students, teachers and other staff have been granted facilities of a number of schemes. Many non-teaching posts have been conferred the teaching status. The study of these schemes may be instructive for the Central Government. I urge upon the Government to follow up on the lines of West Bengal in this regard.

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

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