

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, August 9, 2017/ Shravana 18, 1939 (Saka)

Reference to the 75th Anniversary of the Quit India Movement

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, today is the 75th Anniversary of the 'Quit India Movement' launched on this day in the year 1942 under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. The whole nation responded to the clarion call of Gandhiji and participated in the Movement with single-minded commitment and dedication, which culminated in our achieving Independence five years later.

On this solemn occasion, we pay our humble and respectful homage to all those martyrs who gave their lives, and also to those who suffered untold sufferings for the cause of our freedom. Let us reaffirm our commitment to uphold the sovereignty, integrity and unity of our country.

(One Minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of the martyrs.)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):

The struggle of our Independence started in the beginning of the last century and it was the common feeling of the people of the whole nation that Britishers should leave the country and hand over the administration to us. Our struggle continued for several years and many people fought for it in different ways. Some people were agitating under Gandhiji and INA people were revolting in their own style. We are celebrating 75th anniversary of our freedom struggle this year, so it is necessary to look back and decide our way ahead. We too faced many challenges in the beginning and I can proudly say that with every challenge we became stronger. Today, every citizen of this country wants to get one portion of the nation back from our neighbour. I have full faith in the capabilities of our security forces. India is the only country in the world, which was able to make its state, the Punjab free from terrorism. However, a few great leaders sacrificed their lives during that process. We are still facing two major challenges, first one is Left Wing Extremism which has no faith in the Constitution and wants to change the system through violence. Secondly, some people of the country are being misguided from cross border forces and they have taken up the arms against the Government and spreading terrorism, especially in northern part of the country. Our forces have bravely fought with the terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. Therefore, it is necessary that all of us should sit together and formulate a policy to strengthen the system in tackling terrorism. I agree that we have tried to strengthen our democracy day by day in the last 75 years, particularly, in 70 years after Independence. It is the strength of our electoral procedure, our judiciary, our multi-party parliamentary system that, despite different ideologies, all are its part. We have ensured that our democratic institutions work smoothly and independently.

The challenge of poverty is still a big problem. We have progressed a lot from 1991 till date, but a large portion of our population is still living below poverty line. So, we have to do many things to improve basic infrastructure in various sectors,

particularly, in defence, health, education, etc. Today another big question before us is that the credibility of public life is in danger whereas the situation was different during the time of our freedom struggle. It is our duty to restore the faith of our people in the system and authorities of the country. Our country is full of diversities and it was one of our challenges to tackle this problem, but we have overcome it. Our federalism is working smoothly with regional representations. People from different religions, castes, societies, etc. are part of the system. Today it is therefore necessary to maintain harmony among them. Now people have become aware of and accountable to riots too. When we want to be the most vibrant economy in the world, it is also important to have peaceful and harmonious atmosphere in the country. Hence, it is the high time to take a pledge to make the country strong, judicious and economically progressive.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): We are celebrating 75th anniversary of Quit India Movement today. It is a honour for me to pay tribute to those great leaders. Our great leaders like, Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Maulana Azad, Subhash Chandra Bose, etc, and many common men fought for our freedom. There are a number of freedom fighters who fought in their individual capacity. On behalf of my party and on my own behalf, I pay tribute to all the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for our freedom from 1857, our first freedom fight till 1947, along with leaders and workers of my congress party. When the big forces of the world were going towards world war in 1942, Gandhi took this decisive decision.

In 1942, meetings and the sessions of Congress Working Committee were held. Sir Stafford Cripps was sent to India with a new proposal but it was rejected by Congress and Muslim League both. In the meetings held in July, 1942 a resolution was passed that the British Rule should now come to an end. On 5th August, 1942, there was a meeting of the Congress Working Committee. After that, Mahatma Gandhi asked Great Britain and United State to intervene in this matter and make it their ally after helping it in getting

Independence. The Congress President Maulana Azad presented all the resolutions, passed that year, to the AICC in the Session of Bombay held on 7th August. Mahatma Gandhi gave the slogans "Do or Die" and "Quit India". This was the biggest decision of Gandhiji because he always used to talk about non-violence. However, that time he also said that it should be done by the way of non-violence. All the members of the Working Committee were arrested on the same night, and the Congress and all the newspapers were banned. After the arrest of all the leaders, the public of India took the charge. Aruna Asaf Ali contributed in providing guidance to the workers of Congress at that time. Today, we are paying tribute to those leaders who had made the mightiest power of the world to quit India. If we believe that sacrifice, all the things can be faced. There was no communal riot at that time. This struggle was fought up to 1945. In that struggle, thousands of people were killed and lakhs of people went to jail, but there was no Hindi-Muslim riot. If you want to pay your tribute to all the martyrs and people of every section by true spirit, then we have to cleanse our hearts first. Today, we are having danger from ourselves and from our thinking. Whatever resolution would be kept here, I support it.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: When Gandhiji gave the slogans of "Quit India Movement" and "Do or Die", all the leaders were arrested within a few hours. In order to campaign the movement that time, Shri Jai Prakesh and Dr. Lohia fought the real struggle. Although the Britishers understood that they had to leave India yet it took many years and we got our freedom on 15 August, 1947. The country was freed but with the division. The Britishers gave us such a wound which can never be healed up. Many incidents occurred even after the Independence and we should have learnt a lesson from them. We have lost our Kailash Mansarovar alongwith Tibet. We have to get a visa from China even for going to our own Kailash Mansarovar. We have to learn from our mistakes. We people organised "Save Himalayas Movement" and also went to jail. We have to keep our eyes on Himalayas. After losing Tibet, a situation of insecurity has been created for us. The 1942 Movement was the movement for all the people. Today, we pay tribute to all the

people who had laid their lives for the freedom of the nation, and also to the people who had fought for the freedom struggle.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: The slogan 'Quit India Movement', given by Gandhiji was a great success. Everybody in India participated therein. It was participated especially in Tamil Nadu. The English newspaper, "The Hindu" played a vital role. On the eve of the 75th Year of the Quit India Movement, we dedicate ourselves to rebuild this great secular, democratic, sovereign, socialist country, that is, India.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: The history paves the way for the time to come. Those, who do not learn from the history, will always go into the ditch. The August Revolution was a do or die fight of Indian Independence. The August Revolution took place under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, followed by a long list of leaders including Jawahar Lal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Moulana Azad etc. Thereafter, 1942 agitation took place, and youth of this country took over this agitation. The Congress Socialist party was existing within the Congress Party, constituted of all the young members. I am proud that my father was also arrested at that time. In the struggle fought in 1857, my grandfather sacrificed his life. However, the Indian youth took over the control of the "Quit India Movement". Several people sacrificed their lives in this movement. Several members of the Azad Hind Army also lost their lives. It is shared struggle and we have to maintain this history. If don't remember that shared heritage, shared history, then the future generation will be confused. The countries and communities who manipulate the history of their ancestors, that community gets spoiled. The differences of opinion exist and this difference of opinion is the basis of the democracy. Mahatma Ji said that the Democracy will not run by bullet but with dialogue. The Baba Saheb Ambedkar and other members of the Constituent Assembly were deeply connected to the roots of this country. They knew the contradictions prevailing in the country which were linked to language, region and religion. This Constitution is meant to create the future of India. We should protect

this Constitution and shared heritage. It was the purpose of the 1942 movement, and it was the shared, big movement for all.

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: In the historical session of the Congress, in Bombay, Nehru Ji said that "We shall fight to finish" and Gandhi said that "Do or die". "British, quit India". The Congress Party was banned and all the leaders and more than one lakh congress workers were arrested, several leaders went underground. A call was made to all the Indians to boycott the British Rule. In this manner the whole of the India joined the August Revolution movement. Thereafter, a National Government was formed under the leadership of various leaders. This Government continued for several years in different parts. It is great history. It is a memory and this memory will continue to last till the National Flag flies high in the Red Fort. Neta Ji Subhash Chandra also made a call to fight against the Britishers. Thereby, the momentum was created for the independence of India. Thereafter, Naval mutiny took place and with culmination of all these actions, we got the independence. The whole of India made a historical contribution in it. More than 10,000 persons were killed and lakhs were jailed. However, it is painful that some traitors were there who did not contribute to that movement. Also some parties also betrayed. Even today, there are traitors in our country, our brotherhood is in trouble, our unity is in crisis.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: The 75th Anniversary of the 'Quit India Movement' is a very solemn occasion when we recollect not only the history but also the purpose and what was it that made it a successful Movement. If you go into history, the leader of that Satara Independent Government was Nana Patil who was a member of the Communist Part of India. Cellular Jail today, eighty per cent of the names that are written there, are all of the communists from Bengal or the undivided Punjab. The 50th Anniversary of the Quit India Movement there was a Midnight Session. Those days, we used to have Sessions to commemorate our history. We were all there. 'We' mean the 'communists' the communists were all there in the AICC. The first time a complete Independent slogan, a Resolution that was moved was in the Ahmedabad Session of the AICC in 1921. It was moved on

behalf of the Communist Party of India. A Maulana and a Swami move a Resolution on behalf of the Communist Party of India asking for complete Independence! But finally in the Karachi AICC Session of 1929, Purna Swaraj Slogan was given Lahore. If we are talking about "Quit India Movement" then one of its characteristic is common heritage. This common heritage belongs to the people of all caste and creed. For 1857, a British chronicle is there and it stated that "there is no future for the British in India." We achieved our Independence because of that unity. Today, we are paying homage to all those who created that history and made India independent, for which all of us are proud. So, it is that combined history.

In 1947, we became independent. We are all proud. We have inherited that Indian nationalism. In those five years we also saw the Partition of India. We saw the communal polarisation in those five years that led to this unfortunate Partition. A country named Pakistan came into existence and India became a secular democratic republic. The economic policies that are increasing unemployment, that are increasing poverty, that are increasing the divide between the rich and the poor, that are creating these two Indias, should be stopped. We are creating two Indias, one for the poor and one for the rich. Wealth amounting to 49 per cent of the GDP in 2014 was held by one per cent of the Indian population. As of now 58.4 per cent our GDP is in the hands of one per cent of our population. Gandhi Ji did not stop till they quit India. If there is anything that must quit India today on its 75th Anniversary, it is neo-liberal economic policies. These are impoverishing the mass of my people, communalism that is dividing my country and it is disuniting our people in the struggle to create a better India. The thinking which they are carrying to go back into the past, we need to shun that. Without boycotting we cannot move into the brightness of the future. The movement forward should be for strengthening the secular democratic republic of India. Let us observe Quit India by saying, quit neo-liberal reforms, quit communalism.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: I would like to pay homage to our freedom fighters. Our movement for the freedom was a democratic struggle and nowhere that struggle happened in the world. Three main values were involved in our struggle for freedom i.e. we have to become a democratic country, we have to move on the basis of non-violence and to establish the secularism. It seems that we don't want to learn any lesson from history. Gandhi Ji dreamt about creation of a secular country. If need liberation from anything, then that is corruption. We need corruption free India, we need communal free India. We need India free from discrimination. We need to work toward this direction. To pay homage to those freedom fighters who gave us the best Constitution in the world, we should create a communal free India, and corruption free India.

SHRI VEER SINGH: Crores of people of our country participated in Quit India Movement. Many leaders have given their contribution for the freedom of the country. Hon'ble Kanshiram Ji used to say that crores of Dalits, backwards and deprived class of this country got freedom from Britishers but still there is feudalism, discrimination in our country. We have still to fight to remove that. Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar had an important role in the freedom struggle. I am very sorry to say that neither our leader of opposition nor treasury bench and none of the other parties mentioned the name of Baba Saheb. Dalits did not have right to vote earlier. He fought a lot for this right. There was a mention of Laxmi Bai Ji. But actually Jhalkari Bai fought for the country but historians nowhere mentioned Jhalkari Bai because she belonged to Scheduled Caste. Had Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar not made a provision in the Constitution, the 131 MPs belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe would not have been able to reach to Lok Sabha after their win. Whenever there is atrocity or injustice to Dalits, only one leader i.e Behan Kumari Mayawati raises her voice against it, no one else. Whatever rights have been given to us under the Constitution of India through Baha Saheb, we must get them. Everyone should be treated equally in the country. Finally, I would like to pay homage to those patriots who participated in the freedom struggle of the country.

SHRI MAJEED MEMON: It was this day when the movement to drive British rulers away from our soil picked up momentum. 75 years have elapsed since we acquired political independence but, unfortunately we are yet to achieve freedom from poverty, hunger, unemployment, discrimination, injustice etc. We all have to work together to fulfill Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a 'Free India'. As a nation, this is in national interest that all of us rise above our differences and remind ourselves that we have got a duty that we will have to free India from all these evils. We should arrange employment, reduce the difference between rich and poor, eliminate hatred. Could we achieve freedom despite elapsed of 75 years. We have become slaves of poverty, unemployment, injustice etc. As long as we do not free ourselves from these evils, we are not free.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: There are so many names from Tamil Nadu and from different States like Puli Thevan, Velu Nachiyar, Subramaniya Siva, V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, Bharathi, Dheeran Chinnamalai, Kodi Kaththa Kumaran, etc. who gave up their lives for the freedom struggle. We still have untouchability. People are being treated badly. In Tamil Nadu and many States, people are not allowed to eat together. We should be ashamed to say that even today honour killings are happening in this country. Every Government comes up with a different education policy. Are we thinking of modern ways? Today, what is the state of the farmers? We are not able to link rivers. We are not able to share water and settle disputes between States. Is this what our freedom fighters dreamt of? We cannot feel proud of this nation when 50 per cent of the population in this country is being treated so badly. Are we not ashamed to say that it is not a safe country for women. What right do we have to pass any Bill in this country without enough representation of women in any House? If our women, people, dalits, underprivileged, the backward communities and the minorities are not free from fear of the future, then, there is nothing to feel proud of.

SHRI SANJAY RAUT: "Quit India" was the slogan originated by Mahatama Gandhi from Mumbai. Once upon a time Mumbai was the capital of the freedom struggle of the country. Lakhs of Mill workers of Mumbai, poor public, were the soldiers of our freedom struggle. Mill workers too who martyred in this struggle must be remembered. There were many leaders in Quit India Movement not only Mahatama Gandhi. Freedom struggle was not the monopoly of one party alone. All the people of different ideology, all religions and all castes were part of it. You cannot forget Veer Savarkar. Though non violence played its role but we should remember those also who took to guns.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Seventy-five years ago, Mahatma Gandhi's call galvanized the entire nation. That was the call of 'Do or Die' which got us our Independence. Punjab has a special role here. On this day, my entire family went to jail. My grandfather, Shri A.N. Gujral, my grandmother, father, Shri I.K. Gujral, my two buas and my aunts all went to jail. Such was the spirit in them that they must do something for this country. We have gathered here to pay homage to our great leaders—Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose, Pt. Nehru, Maulana Azad, Sardar Patel, Lala Lajpat Rai, Dr. Rajendra Prasad—and many, many more, who made us free. Today we should all reflect as to how do we achieve their principles their objectives.

SHRI D. RAJA: I join the entire House to pay my solemn homage to the martyrs of our freedom movement. My party, the Communist Party of India made supreme sacrifices in the struggle against British Raj for the Independence of the country. As an anti-British revolutionary, as an inheritor of anti-British struggle, I speak in this House that communists did play a heroic role in the struggle for Independence. We all should fight for independence, and upliftment of the poor people in the country. Freedom means freedom for the Dalits, freedom for all the suppressed sections and discriminated sections of our society. India should move forward on the ideals of secularism and social justice.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE): Today is a great revolutionary day for us when on 9th of August, 1942 Mahatma Gandhi had given a call to "Quit India." We should not forget those who sacrificed their lives to strengthen India and its independence.

SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: I belong to such a freedom fighter's family whose parents spent most of their time in jails and who accepted responsibility with Gandhiji. My maternal grandfather was hanged to death in 1915. The common people led this movement forward after the arrest of several leaders in Mumbai. Therefore, we have to safeguard this freedom at all costs and dedicate ourselves to eradicate casteism, separatism, regionalism, poverty and unemployment from the country to lead it on the path of progress.

SHRI A.V. SWAMY: I would like to share with you my experience as a child joining 'Quit India Movement'. I hail from a tribal region-Koraput. I joined 'Vanar Sena' for carrying letters for the underground freedom fighters.

SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: On 8th August, 1942 Mahatma Gandhi and the All India Congress Committee launched Quit India Movement from August Kranti Maidaan in Mumbai. Gandhiji had warned of any kind of violence in this movement. When Congress party was established, it was ensured that its membership would be provided without any discrimination based on caste, creed, religion and gender. Our unity has maintained the Independence gained in 1947 in contrast to other countries. So, we can progress if we remain united.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I now move the following Resolution:

“This House:-

Recalls that seventy five years ago Mahatma Gandhi called for the British to Quit India and gave the clarion call ‘Do or Die’ to the Indian people to end the British Rule;

Observes on the 75th Anniversary of the 'Quit India Movement' that it is important to remember the heroic struggle of the Indian people- students, peasants, women, workers and Government officials who defied the brutal repression of the British Raj to launch mass satyagraha that shook the very foundation of the British rule;

Acknowledges that this is also an occasion to recall with gratitude the sacrifices of millions of our people and salute the memory of thousands of Indians, who gave their lives for the freedom of India; and

On this day solemnly takes a pledge to uphold and safeguard the values and ideals of the freedom movement and re-dedicate ourselves to build an India that is strong, self-reliant, inclusive, secular and democratic.”

The Resolution was adopted unanimously.

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM SEYCHELLES

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, we have with us, seated in the Special Box, Members of a Parliamentary Delegation from Seychelles, currently on a visit to our country under the distinguished leadership of hon. Partick Pillay, Speaker of the National Assembly of Seychelles.

On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to the leader and other members of the delegation and wish our distinguished guests an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here, they would be able to see and learn more about our Parliamentary system, our country and our people, and that their visit will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between India and Seychelles. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Parliament and the friendly people of Seychelles.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION

Increasing Basic Customs Duty (BCD) from Nil to 10 Per Cent on Certain Goods

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I move the Statutory Resolution that in pursuance of Section 8A (1) of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975, read with sub-section (3) of Section 7 of the said Act, this House hereby approves of Notification No. 56/2017-Customs, dated 30th June, 2017 [G.S.R.797 (E). dated 30th June, 2017] which seeks to increase the basic customs duty (BCD) from NIL to 10% on the following goods:

S. No.	Tariff Item	Description
1.	8443 32 90	Printers other than Line printer, Dot matrix printer, Letter quality daisy wheel printer, Laser jet printer, Ink jet printer, Facsimile machine
2.	8443 99 51	Ink cartridges, with print head assembly
3.	8443 99 52	Ink cartridges, without print head assembly
4.	8443 99 53	Ink spray nozzle
5.	8517 12 10	Telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks (Push button type)
6.	8517 12 90	Telephones for cellular networks or for other wireless networks (Other than push button type)
7.	8517 61 00	Base stations

8. 8517 70 90 Parts of goods under tariff heading 8517 other than populated, loaded or stuffed printed circuit boards.

The Statutory Resolution was adopted.

SHUMSHER K. SHERIFF,
Secretary-General.

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