

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Wednesday, July 26, 2017/ Shrawana 4, 1939 (Saka)

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Shabbir Ahmad Salaria and Shrimati Mohinder Kaur, former Members of this House.

Shri Shabbir Ahmad Salaria passed away on the 20th of July 2017, at the age of 82 years.

Born in December, 1934, at Anantnag District of Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Salaria was educated at the Amar Singh College, Srinagar, and the Aligarh Muslim University.

An advocate by profession, Shri Salaria served as the Standing Counsel for the Union of India, from 1973 to 1976 and as the Advocate-General of Jammu and Kashmir, from 1981 to 1984. He was the President of the Legal Aid Association, Jammu, and Vice-President of Jammu Wakf Committee. He strived for the rehabilitation of displaced persons during the 1965 Indo-Pak War.

Shri Shabbir Ahmad Salaria represented the State of Jammu and Kashmir in this House from September, 1989 to October, 1992.

In the passing away of Shri Shabbir Ahmad Salaria, the country has lost a noted lawyer and a distinguished parliamentarian.

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

Shrimati Mohinder Kaur passed away on the 24th of July, 2017, at the age of 94 years.

Born in 1922 at Ludhiana in Punjab, Shrimati Kaur was educated at the Queen Mary's College, Lahore.

Shrimati Kaur was acitvely involved in several social and philanthropic activities throughout her life. She organized camps for refugees from West Pakistan in 1947 and worked for the recovery of abducted women in PEPSU from 1947 to 1949. She served as the Chairman of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Indian Section) and as the World President of the International Abolitionist Federation, Geneva. She also served as the Vice-President of the Bharat Krishak Samaj and Vice-Chairman of the Central Institute of Research and Training in Public Cooperation.

Shrimati Mohinder Kaur represented the State of Punjab from 1964 to 1967 and the State of Himachal Pradesh, from April, 1978 to April, 1984, in this House. She was also a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha.

In the passing away of Shrimati Mohinder Kaur, the country has lot a distinguished parliamentarian and a dedicated philanthropist.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Shabbir Ahmad Salaria and Shrimati Mohinder Kaur.

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

MATTER RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

Need for a National Policy for Old Parents Neglected by Children

SHRI SHWAIT MALIK: I want to mention a very emotional issue regarding the aged parents being neglected by their children. Parents have been given the status of God in our culture but today, children are forsaking their parents in old age, while they had made them able and self-dependent in their life. It is a blot on our culture that old age centres are on the rise in the country. I urge upon the Government to simplify the laws for the aged persons keeping in view their financial and physical helplessness in having access to the courts, and ensure their safety.

Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), 2017-18

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), 2017-18.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Farmers' Distress Leading to Rise in Incidents of their Suicide in Country- *contd.*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH), replying to the discussion, said: Due to worsening political and social circumstances, speedy industrialization was inevitable. We proceeded in this direction, but positive reaction towards agriculture industry was also necessary. After Mexico, the background for green revolution in Indian Agriculture was made. It is equally worth mentioning that our

Government is committed to spend more than the budgeted amount for the welfare of farmers of the country. I believe that spending more than the allocated amount during the year 2016-17 was primarily due to faulty bureaucratic processes, not the Centre and state Governments. There would be no reduction in amount earmarked for the development of dairy sector, fisheries and agriculture education as farmers need new technology. A corpus fund of Rs. 40,000 thousand crores has been set up under 'Pradhan Mantri Sinchai Yojna'. A budget of Rs. 8,000 crores has been earmarked for strengthening closed dairy plants. Budget allocation for sectors like Agricultural marketing infrastructure, dairy, fisheries, agricultural education has also been raised. The report of an All India committee constituted under agriculture economic research branch has ascertained loss to crops due to monsoon, shortage of water resources, insects and infection in plants are the reasons behind the suicides by farmers.

Interest subsidy to farmers and the budget have been enhanced. Nowadays, farmers get loan at the rate of 4 per cent. To bring transparency in cooperatives for easy access of loan to farmers, budget for the same has been increased and a large number of cooperatives have been computerized. Budget under Joint Liability Groups aiming to provide loan to farmers has been highly increased. The relief amount for natural calamity has been enhanced up to Rs.4 lakhs from Rs. 1.5 lakh. The norm for getting relief has also been relaxed. For emergency relief under State Calamity fund has also been enhanced just after the Government came in power. The relief amount under National Disaster Fund to states has also been increased. We have been working to enhance farmers' income and in regular contact with Mr. Swaminathan for the same. I would stress that increasing only the minimum support price will not serve this purpose. The minimum support prices for 22 commodities are fixed and rest of the commodities will be procured through Mulya Samarthan Yojna and Bazaar Hastakshep Yojana. The guidelines for the same have also been changed resulting in huge procurement of oil seeds and pulses. Awareness has also risen among the states for this scheme. 455 markets as on date have been covered under National Agriculture Market launched by Prime Minister and continuous efforts are being

made to build up infrastructure to cover more markets under it. The number of pack houses has been increased up to 24000 from earlier 250 only. These are being set up in form of cold chain. Provision has been made under recently launched scheme named Sampada to form value-added chain. Earlier, there was severe scarcity of urea for the farmers.

Every grain of urea in India is neem-coated. We have set up more than 9,000 labs for soil health management within three years. Prime Minister said the soil of India is not mere piece of land, it is our mother. We issued funds to the states for soil health cards. These cards have been distributed to 9 crore farmers. There was no plan of Bio Farming in the country. We have made 7,208 clusters till yet. We started bio-value chains separately for eastern states and under this, approximately 23,000 farmer clusters are formed. Integrated farming is necessary to enhance the income of farmers. The budget has enhanced from 58 crore rupees in 2013-14 to 550 crore this year. "Crop Insurance Scheme" is a safety cover for the farmers. Certainly the number of non-credit farmers under the crop insurance scheme has been enhanced. We pay according to the degree of disaster. Today 5 public sector companies are working with the private companies. More than half of premium is with the government companies. Now, crop is fully covered. Whatever problems farmers are facing, we will overcome them.

GOVERNMENT BILLS

The Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill, 2017

THE MINISTER OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA), moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said: We were unable to collect the statistical data from Jammu and Kashmir for the reasons that the principal Act as of now, extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Jammu and Kashmir Collection of Statistics Act, 2010 passed by the Jammu and Kashmir

legislature extends to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Both the above laws do not cover the matters specified in the Union List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. The main amendment proposed is to address this legislative vacuum. It is intended to designate a nodal officer at the Centre and each State for providing guidance to the line Departments, to provide an appropriate enabling provision in the principal Act for rule-making power by the Centre and it is regarding the condition of previous publication of Rules under the Act. We want to cover the entire country including Jammu and Kashmir. I commend that the Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill, 2017, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: I would like the hon. Minister to enlighten us on exactly what was the legislative vacuum and why there was difficulty in getting data on each of these or some of these 97 items in the Union List of the Seventh Schedule. I am willing to be educated by the Minister, as to why the previous Act failed in getting the information on these 97 items. The UPA Government passed the Act in 2009. Subsequently, the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly passed the Jammu and Kashmir Collection of Statistics Act, 2010. I would like to remind ourselves that in addition to Article 370, we have Article 371 that applies to certain areas of different States. Article 370 needs to be understood in the larger perspective of the special provisions for other parts of the country in addition to Jammu and Kashmir. I would like the Minister to kindly explain to us whether the State Government was on board as far as this legislation is concerned. The environment in Jammu and Kashmir is very sensitive and we need to understand this sensitivity. We should not do something unilaterally. The crux of this Bill relates to Jammu and Kashmir. That is why I have raised this issue of non-consultation with the State Government before bringing forward this Bill. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether governance in the State or governance at the Centre has suffered on account of the lack of collection of those statistics.

SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: The amendments proposed by the Hon'ble Minister are relevant in the existing Bill. Jurisdiction of Jammu and Kashmir was not included. We should follow federal system. In the Act of 2008 collection of data and statistics related to Jammu and Kashmir according to Concurrent list were under State Act and Centre had no power in it. By this amendment collection of data related to Union list and Concurrent list will have confidentiality and authenticity and jurisdiction will be extended. The Central Government would get power by this. The provision of Nodal officer would be very important. The powers provided to the Statistics officer would be used in positive manner. There would be monitoring of data and statistics. At the same time, a provision has been made by which if any officer related to any agencies leaves any discrepancy in collection of statistics, he will be penalised and action would be taken against him. This Bill would fulfil a legislative vacuum.

SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN: Kashmir is actually boiling and under such circumstances, without taking concurrence and acceptance of the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, it will not be proper for the Union Government to pass this Bill at this stage. That has to be answered and that is what I want to know from the Government.

SHRI HARIVANSH: This Bill should be passed at least after taking concurrence from the State Government. After this Bill the Centre or State Government will have the power to appoint a Nodal officer to supervise and co-ordinate this work. There is a provision in the Act of 2008 that the information collected under this would be used only for the purpose of statistics, but the Bill of 2017 repeals this provision. This Bill will supersede Jammu and Kashmir Collection of Statistics Act, 2010. I request that there no statement of any kind be made with regard to any aspect related to Jammu and Kashmir under this law. I support this Bill.

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Collecting data, statistics and appointment of nodal officers are good. In different offices there are nodal officers who collect data and collection of data will be much better and it will help in getting reliable data. Recently, the corporate

leaders have shown that they want the data. So far, we have been concerned with individual data, but for corporate, it is collective data. So, collection of data and keeping it, are very important. The data interpretation can be manipulated. I know that when denominator changes, the entire statistics will change. If you don't follow data and statistics scientifically and if you don't put across the total statistics together, we can come to different conclusions. We have to deal with it scientifically.

SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: In India, we are lagging behind with regard to accuracy of the statistics in comparison to the developed countries. It needs to be improved a lot. Our statistical data should be merged with geographical system, so that we can acquire a real time data of any of the geographical area. A provision has been included in this Bill to extend the scope this Bill to the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Inclusion of Jammu and Kashmir will help in development of that state. Provision regarding appointment of the Nodal officers by the Central and State Government is also necessary. In today's time, statistics and accurate data is required for policy making. The concrete steps should be taken to secure the data, information and statistics made available by the Government. The data and information security is very important. There is provision in the Bill that the Government can use the statistics according to need, this aspect need to be taken care of. No one should be allowed to misuse the collected data. The privacy of the individual should be protected, because it is our fundamental right.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: I have carefully perused the Jammu and Kashmir Statistics Act, which had been enacted in 2010. The Act extensively deals with the subjects that are concerned to that particular State. It does not deal with the subjects that are there under the Union List. Now with this Bill Jammu and Kashmir is being included in its scope. The Bill provides for appointment of nodal officers by the State Government and the Central Government. These nodal officers will coordinate and supervise the statistical activities. In the 2008 Act, the information collected under it can be used only for statistical purposes. Now, in this present amendment Bill, this

provision has been removed. It allows the Central Government to use the information so collected in the manner it requires. My concern is, be it the Central Government or the State Governments which have been collecting the data, whether they would utilise the data for the right purposes or not. Whichever party is in power, there is every possibility that the party in power may misuse that information. The next point is improvement of the quality of statistical data collected in India. There have been concerns regarding the economic and demographic statistics collected in India. I hope this Amendment Bill will improve the quality of statistics that are going to be collected. In this regard there should be coordination among various agencies. The shortage of human resource is also an issue. The last point is the need for privacy of data.

SHRI D. RAJA: The Bill seek to extend the Statistics Act, 2008 to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Another point is related to empowerment of the the Central Government and State Government. They will designate one of its officers as nodal officer to coordinate and supervise the statistical activities. I do not undermine the collection of statistics data. The political context is very much important. I want that this legislation should be in accordance with that Article 370. Whether the State Government was engaged in this process? The legislation should be proper and it should be in accordance with the Constitutional provisions.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: It is being trying to extend this Act to Jammu and Kashmir. The consent of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly is essential for it. One should not meddle with the Article 370. In the Act of 2008, the data collected was to be used only for Government purposes; it could not be given to anybody else. The Act is not clear as to how different agencies would be sharing this data. With this provision we are giving power to the Government to do whatever they want to by way of rules, which is not acceptable. The next point is appointment of nodal officers, but the powers are not defined in the Act. The nodal officer's power has to be defined in the Act. Otherwise, it could be misused. Details of the information sharing agency, to whom it is being shared and for what purpose the

information is shared, all should be there. The Article 370 is relevant, when Jammu & Kashmir has a parallel Act. These provisions should be included in that Act also.

DR. VIKAS MAHATME: The collection of statistical data is extremely necessary for the country because on the basis of statistics, we can do the planning. If we want to speed up our development, then we should prepare the evidence based policy. The statistics are very important for the preparation of the evidence based policy and the objective policies which we want to adopt. Lastly, it is the good governance which is also very important. I hope that with this amendment, the difficulties which was being faced previously, will be resolved now. This Act should apply to Jammu and Kashmir, as we can improve the condition prevailing there with data collection and data analysis. Also the data is very important to determine the policies required for that state. In this Bill nodal agencies have been set-up and the empowerment of the Centre and State Government is necessary for the proper planning and execution of the Bill.

SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: It is very important Bill. The statistics which will be collected through this Bill, will help in making welfare policies and schemes for the common men. In this Bill two amendments have been made. It is being expanded to State of Jammu and Kashmir. Secondly, the Governments will be able to appoint the Nodal officers. The work related to the collection of the data is really difficult, for which I have a personal experience. I would like to say to Hon'ble Minister that data collectors must be given more and more facilities and I request that Nodal Officer should be appointed from Statistical Office only. Government should also ensure that collected data is not misused.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Situation in Kashmir has been worse since last 30 years. Your responsibility is more than us because in both the places, you are ruling. Whichever laws have been enacted so far, most of them are passed by Parliament. About 95 to 97 percent laws we have passed here and the same have been passed by Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly again. Here there is no question of merit but of

Constitutional provision. You should understand the implication about J&K. There is militancy and they need alibi. Neither you asked from State Government nor from opposition and even Lok Sabha Member Farooq Abdullah Ji does not know about it. Everyone said that its provisions are ok but it should not have been done without the consent of the State Government. You are ruling in that State also, so you try to understand the sensitivity and instead of getting it passed here, get it passed by State Government otherwise this small issue may worsen the situation.

The hon'ble Minister, replying to the debate, said: There is certain confusion whether we have taken certain steps to get in touch with the State Government of Jammu and Kashmir or not and whether there are constitutional provisions. The Order of 1954 specifies that the Parliament has got exclusive jurisdiction over the Concurrent List as applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. When we do not infringe the rights of Kashmiris, when we do not override Article 370 or we are not entering into or encroaching upon the powers of the State Government, and since we are doing it in the larger interest of the country and the larger interest of the State, is it not fair on our part to go ahead? As far as population census is concerned, there is no problem as far as it is conducted under the provisions of the Census Act, 1948. There are other areas such as agricultural census, livestock census, economic census, etc., which can be conducted under the Collection of Statistics Act of 2008, only by the Central Government. But State Government has no power to go into that. So, under such circumstances to give more and more assistance to Kashmir, we have come up with this Bill. As far as other activities of the State are concerned, certainly, there will be no encroachment. So, it is my humble request that you all should consent for the passage of this Bill.

The motion for consideration of the Bill was adopted.

Clauses etc., were adopted.

The Bill, was passed.

**The National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and
Research (Amendment) Bill, 2017**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY), moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said: It is a matter of jubilation that Lok Sabha has passed it with proper consideration. NITs were formed under NIT Act. With the recommendations of Prof. C.N.R. Rao Committee IISER were set up in Kolkata, Pune, Mohali, Bhopal and Thiruvananthapuram. Our government has set up two more IISERs. IISER were clubbed in NIT in 2012. Although these were two different institutions but they were taken under the same governing body. Our government has decided to setup IISER in Berhampur of Odisha. Today these IISERs are doing good job in the field of science and research. Land is allocated by the Andhra Pradesh state and work of boundary wall is almost done. We have started establishing a permanent campus of engineering school in Berhampur with the capacity of 157 students.

PROF. M.V. RAJEEV GOWDA: I support the Bill. Tirupati is a historic city and pilgrimage centre. Apart from this it is an educational hub also. Former Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao was once elected from Berhampur. I am very happy to speak on this Bill as Bharat Ratna Prof. Rao belongs to my place Kolar, Bengaluru. We basically honour scientists and technologists. Shri Arun Jaitley had pointed in his Budget Speech that he was granting an IISER to Nagaland, wherein the Government of Nagaland said that they had not asked for an IISER and that they would be much happier to get a School of Planning and Architecture for Nagaland. So, what is the current status of this issue. When we see new institutions, there are not labs and other facilities. A number of institutions are coming up, teachers will join but how will you grasp the online information available worldwide. We are very fascinated for science, engineering and technology but there are other streams also. Today environment is changing. According to FICCI our 80 per cent engineers are unemployable. Therefore practicality must be taken care of. Placement

is also very important aspect. World class education should be imparted. Youngsters must attend conferences. I hope these suggestions will ensure that these institutions become world class organisations.

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***Supplement covering rest of the proceedings is being issued separately.