

RAJYA SABHA

***SUPPLEMENT**

TO

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Tuesday, February 06, 2018/ Magha 17, 1939 (Saka)

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS -

Contd.

SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Our government is working towards the core spirit of economic and social democracy needed for political democracy. The Prime Minister invoked people for cleanliness in the country whose pranks were also scoffed at by some persons. But, the public of the country took this very seriously, and big actors, industrialists, businessmen, students, farmers, women and even the school children made the campaign a movement in the country. One crore and 30 lakhs of people left their LPG subsidy in the country on the call of the prime Minister. It shows how much faith the people of the country have on this leader. We have also made substantial improvements in MGNREGA and today, by linking it to the Aadhar and opening the bank account of the workers, all are getting equal money. We have revived many schemes of the previous government and the poor, Dalit, tribal, Young and women are being benefited by them and improving their lives. The Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana have been launched for the farmers in the country. The farmers are given interest free loan in Madhya Pradesh. A number of measures have

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

been taken regarding dairy industry, animal husbandry, milk production and organic farming. Under the MUDRA scheme, ten crores of people have taken a loan of four lakhs. Three crores of people have taken the loan first time. This scheme is for the poor, Dalits, tribals, and thus they are improving their standard of living. Today, our banks are suffering from NPAs as many powerful persons fled with the huge bank money and no action was taken against them in the past. But, now inquiries are on and their are being sent to jails and their properties are being confiscated. Persons like, Sardar Patel were never given due hearing in the matters related to Kashmir and that is why we have to spent a very huge amount there and our security personnel are being martyred almost daily. We failed to address the Tibet issue properly and today China has reached to our boundary. The President's Address has touched issues concerning poor, farmers, Dalits, labourers, women, etc. This Government is committed towards these sections. Farmers are getting subsidies, women are getting LPG connections under Ujjawala Scheme, toilets have been constructed in the villages, and better road connectivity in the rural areas have been ensured. But, some people are not able to digest all these things which are favourable to the poor as they are afraid of loosing their vote bank. Sir, farmers are backbone of this country and urea is easily available to them today. This Government is promoting organic farming so that we can have good quality of food grain, potable water and environment. We believe in 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' and this Government does not discriminate people on the basis of caste, creed and region. I can proudly say that many schemes launched in Madhya Pradesh are example of this motto. The State Government has constructed many canals and today, every village in the State has sufficient irrigation facilities. There, the Government has given loading rikshaws to the poor children, adivasi children and children belonging to the schedule caste and schedule tribes. Now a days they are making their livelihood from these rikshaws. I would like to give an example of Jhabua District. There every youth is having motorcycle. In this manner, the path of development which the BJP and parties of the NDA has covered, by treading on that path we are committed towards the development of the country. I support the

motion of thanks on the President's address moved by our National President Shri Amit Shah Ji.

SHRI SANJAY RAUT: The important things in the President's address include- what is being done by the Government to make the life of common men simple, what is being done by the Government for weaker section, what the Government is doing to strengthen the social justice and democracy. My party i.e. Shiv Sena is concerned mainly about the disturbance prevailing on the borders of the country. The whole country and we all are worried about what is happening in the Doklam, Sikkim and Ladakh, particularly the situation prevailing in the Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan is infiltrating our country by making repeated terrorist attacks on our country. When will we avenge and when will we teach a lesson to Pakistan? We did carry out surgical strike after Pathankot and Uri incidents, but we should take a strong measure. We should give a befitting reply to Pakistan, but what do we do? Our army men are sacrificing their lives for the honour of the tricolour and violence does take place on the name of the tricolour in the current scenario. The Prime Minister should lead, and whole country will accompany him in the tricolour journey in the Kashmir. It is bad that FIRs are being filed against our army men in the Kashmir. The Kashmir lies in our India and our army men are blamed. The Central Government should consider it seriously and State Government should be questioned. The issue related to the return of the Kashmiri Pandit's is still remains undecided. The Government should also think about it. I believe that the country has made a huge progress during these four years. However, the issue of unemployment is existing in the country. If we have talked about giving employment in this country, then it is our responsibility that new investment should be there, new industries should be set up, and unemployed persons should get the jobs. Bala Saheb Thakre said that one should not sit idle, sell Vada-Pao for employment. We talk about the agriculture. This Government belongs to the poor, this Government is meant for farmers, and this fact has repeatedly been mentioned by the Prime Minister; however still the farmers are dying, particularly in the progressive state like Maharashtra. If we are rich country, then why farmers and unemployed persons are committing

suicides? When share market falls, then Government shows its concern; however when farmer dies, no concern is shown by the Government. The President raised an issue of simultaneous election of the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. If it is in interest of the country, if money is saved through it, it saves time, then it should be discussed. The President's address talks about several forward looking things about the society and the country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE): Congress has ruined the country during its regime but now country has a lot of expectation from NDA. In the president's address, issues relating to the welfare of all the classes of society have been included. It has been proposed to conduct parliamentary and assembly election simultaneously. It seems a bit difficult as consensus is to be made throughout the country and law has to be enacted in the parliament in this regard. Simultaneous election will definitely reduce the expenditure. Some people have apprehension that this government would change the constitution but it will not be so. Modi ji contested the Lok Sabha election first time, elected and elevated as Prime Minister. Welfare is an ongoing process. Benefit of GST and demonetization would be evident slowly and silently. Poor people too will be benefitted but everything cannot be completed within 5 years. Justice should be done with Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra. It was mentioned that despite being small country, Pakistan is attacking on us. Pakistan should be warned against it. Everyone should make efforts for providing justice to dalits. For this purpose inter-caste marriage is to be encouraged. Action should be taken against culprits of Bhimapur incident. Casts which are not covered under SC, ST and OBC, may be provided with 25 percent reservation out of residual 50 percent without effecting SC, ST and OBC quota. Poor people too should be provided with reservation in education and jobs. Women should be provided with reservation in Lok Sabha and State assemblies. Tripple talaq Bill must be passed. I on behalf of RPI support the proposal of Shri Amit Shah.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: This Presidential Address does not mention the grant of special category status to the residuary State of Andhra Pradesh. The Union Cabinet, on its own, would have granted the special category status even without referring it to the Planning Commission by way of Executive Order. With this bifurcation, film industry, majority of public sector undertakings and the software industry- having an annual turnover of approximately Rs. 80,000 crores, have gone to Telangana and the residual part of Andhra Pradesh has been left as an agrarian State. Therefore, the special category status to this residual State of Andhra Pradesh was imminent and necessary for the development of Andhra Pradesh, in order to have development of the State of Andhra Pradesh on par with the neighbouring States and other States of this country. The President's Address does not mention anything about the Re-organization Act. A separate Railway Zone, with Visakhapatnam as its headquarters, setting up of a steel plant in Cuddapah district of Andhra Pradesh, construction of a sea port at Durgarajapatnam, close to Chennai, on the Andhra Pradesh-Tamil Nadu border, construction of a petro-chemical complex in Visakhapatnam, implementation of Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor, construction of a metro rail project at Visakhapatnam and on the Vijaywada-Guntur-Tenali route is yet to see the light of the day. Government of India has spent approximately Rs.5,376 crore on special packages for both the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh but for the seven districts, which have been declared as backward districts, the total amount that has been given so far is only Rs.50 crore per district per year whereas the total amount to be given for this particular Package should be more than Rs.5,000 crore, as stipulated in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. The Central Government and also many State Governments have been introducing welfare schemes for various people belonging to various castes, various communities, various regions and professions which is really laudable but I suggest to the Government of India to implement universal basic income scheme to every person who is below the poverty line and down-trodden and deprived class of this country.

SHRI LA. GANESAN: Yesterday one hon'ble member claimed that the Jan Dhan Yojna is not a new scheme. I want to say that our government have made this scheme functional. This is the difference. Members from TDP said that simply opening of accounts is not sufficient. I want to tell the hon'ble member to observe the purpose of the scheme. 15 paise out of 100 rupee was reaching to the beneficial earlier, but now in our government beneficial will get 115 rupee in stead of 100 rupee. This is the difference. One another Hon'ble Member said that the Hon'ble President has mentioned vasudhaiv kutumbkam. We have been practicing this thought for a long time. Nation will observe this thought. Some hon'ble members said that Modiji speaks frequently. Yes, he speaks and we are proud of it. Some of former Prime Ministers had knowledge of 12 languages, but they remained silent. Hon'ble Member Shri T.K. Rangarajan, has rightly mentioned that Thirukkural should be made national text. Thiruvalluvar is not only the national poet, he is world poet too. I support this. So far as happiness is concerned, I can say that India is the happiest country in the world. Secularism is the tradition of the country. As far as linking of the Cauvery is concerned, there are so many problems. I request the Government to expedite the process of implementation of linking of rivers. The Krishna should be linked with the Tamil Nadu river. The process of interlinking of rivers should be expedited. Equivalent to Kumbh Mela, there is one Mela that is going to be there in Tirunelveli. The arrangement to be done by Central Government for this Mela should be started now itself. With regard to NEET, the result should be announced early, because many suicides are being committed because of its uncertainty. Our Prime Minister is not media-projected leader.

SHRI C.M. RAMESH: One Member from YSRC Party mentioned that if Andhra Pradesh is not satisfied with the budget, Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju should resign. That is a political speech. He should not have done that here. My request is that it should be expunged.

Discussion not concluded.

OBSERVATIONS BY THE CHAIR

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have some observations to make and I would like to appeal to all the Members, who are present and not present, to take notice of what I am saying. From the day I have assumed the Office of Chairman of this august House, I have made it clear that any issue sought to be raised by any Member of the House, will be allowed to be raised provided proper notice is given and it is as per the rules. I have reasons to believe that no hon. Member would have any grouse in this regard. I am deeply concerned with the negative public perception of this august House on account of forced adjournments and that too quite frequently over the years which frequently follows a pattern, a pattern aimed at not allowing the House to function smoothly, come what may. Ever since I started Chairing the proceedings of this House, leaders of several parties have conveyed their anguish to me, over how they are being deprived of their right to raise some of their concerns as some parties are strategically for disruptions leading to forced adjournment. I have shared this with floor leaders on many occasions. Many Members from back-benches, -- some of them are here, some of them are not there -- met me and told me, "Sir, after the main parties speak, they don't allow the House to function. Then we are deprived of an opportunity to put forth our point of view". That has really made me to seriously think that we must also find out a way.

Secondly, regarding the pattern of disruptions, I would like to share with the hon. Members that I have admitted a total of forty-two Zero Hour submissions during the last three working days - 2nd, 5th and 6th of this month. Who is to be held responsible for denying forty-one Members of their right to bring their concerns to the notice of this august House and to the Government? Even yesterday, the entire House saw in the Zero Hour, when I started taking up Zero Hour, there were disruptions. As insisted by the Member who had given notice, I allowed the hon. Member to make his submission in the Zero Hour. He tried his best but his voice was not allowed to be heard. Who is responsible for the same? So, in that way, we have also given a trial that we call the Members, give some time and meanwhile, the

message goes to the country. I need not explain as to what is happening to the image of this august House.

Another aspect of this pattern is that first the Zero Hour is disrupted and then even the Question Hour, the time when Members get an opportunity to question the Government, is also disrupted. The Question Hour belongs to the Members. They do a lot of work and then raise questions and the Government also collects information after so much effort. If the Question Hour is lost, then it is a loss to the House and it is a loss to the country. And there have been umpteen occasions -- I don't want to get into those details -- when the Question Hour was not allowed to be taken up in the House.

Another aspect is that on many occasions, once the House gets adjourned several times between 11.00 AM and 1.00 PM, in this era of TV explosions, such frequent adjournments are adversely impacting the image and credibility of this House. This is where I am concerned.

In this backdrop, I thought that it would be better to adjourn the House for a longer period instead of resorting to frequent adjournments, that too when it becomes evident that some sections of the House are bent on not allowing smooth conduct of the House. I can tell you frankly some of them come to me and also tell me openly, "Sir, today, please don't misunderstand us." I don't want to name the parties. I have everything with me, including today, including yesterday. Then, when I know that the House is not going to be allowed to function, when people are going to create scenes, I thought that it would be in the interest of the House to see that such unruly scenes are not witnessed by the public. That is where I am concerned. There may be difference of opinion. Some people are saying, "No, Sir, it is democracy. Let these unruly scenes and all this behaviour also go on record. Let the people see and then let them decide." That can be one point of view. I don't differ with that. But I have my own strong view, being in this House for years together and being in public life, that the image of the Parliament, the image of the other institutions has to be kept intact and it has to be raised. And, we have great Parliamentarians who have contributed their might to the country by

meaningful debates in this House and also in the other House. So, I am very much concerned on that personally. Some of you, who have been discussing with me, also know as to what my concern is. My concern is confined not to the Parliament or Rajya Sabha alone. When I go to public functions also, I open up my mind and also tell the people that this should not happen; not about Rajya Sabha, even about other House because the Assemblies, the Municipalities, the Zila Parishads and the local bodies look up to the top institutions - the Parliament (Rajya Sabha, Lok Sabha) and other institutions.

So, we should not allow the image to go down. We have seen yesterday one observation made by one of the Judges of the Supreme Court with regard to what is happening in the Supreme Court. I don't want to recall that. So, that being the case, the idea is to protect the image and stature of the Parliament. So, my intention in adjourning it for a longer period is that I want everybody to understand the seriousness and also the concern of mine. Today morning, I shared my concern with the Deputy Chairman and also with some of the floor leaders who were there in my Chamber. I urged the leaders to ensure smooth conduct of proceedings. I also told the leaders that if House proceedings were disrupted at the start, I would be left with no option but to adjourn the House till lunch. I made that very clear. My intention in doing so is to promote a sense of collective responsibility in minimizing or doing away with such forced frequent disruptions. When Members and parties realise that they would ultimately be the losers of such disruptions and adjournments, they would like to talk to each other and enable better functioning of the House. I realise some hon. Members have, perhaps, not properly understood my concerns and anguish over the functioning of this House.

I would like to reiterate again that it would be my commitment to allow any issue to be raised by anybody as per the rules. I have the weakness and the commitment to the rules, to the procedures, to keep the dignity of this House, and I am keen that I should stick to that. It is my commitment to allow any issue to be raised by anybody as per the rules and procedures. Nobody should have any misgivings about that. About the Zero Hour submissions,

which come to me, some of them are not even within the purview of the Central Government, some are concerned with the State Governments, but, I think, okay, if a Member wants to raise it, let it be raised. Sometimes, as you know, I used to insist upon Ministers also to respond, though in Zero Hour, there is no such responsibility on the part of the Government to respond immediately. They can send it later.

Now, why I am sharing this is, I am told that some Members have gone out and expressed their views. I don't want to join issue with them because as the Chairman, that is not for me to do, but I thought it is my responsibility to share with the country, to share with the Members, what is happening here. We should all see to it that the House functions effectively, the House functions constructively. For protests, there is a forum of protests and also criticism. We have seen yesterday how people spoke on President's Address from this side and from that side. Very eloquent speeches were made. Very strong criticisms were made. I have nothing to lose, nothing to choose this way or that way. I only want the House to function and also function as per Parliamentary conditions and traditions. That is why, I want to make this very clear on the floor of the House.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

1. Demand to set up Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (H.A.L.) Facility for manufacturing Light Combat Aircraft at Salem in Tamil Nadu

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The Government of Tamil Nadu is in the process of coming out with an exclusive aerospace and defence policy. Its objective is to achieve 30 per cent share of the sector in India and create employment opportunities for 1 lakh persons in Tamil Nadu. The development of Chennai Aerospace Park at Sriperumbudur is one such initiative. More than 120 aerospace components manufacturing companies and more than 700 suppliers to our various Defence PSUs are operating in Tamil Nadu. Salem is centrally located and has a large Land Bank. In view of the ideal conditions, I appeal to

the Government to set up Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (H.A.L.) facility for manufacturing Light Combat Aircraft in Salem.

(Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth and Dr. Anil Kumar Sahani associated.)

2. Demand to take Steps for Expeditious Release of Funds under Centrally Aided Schemes to the State of Tamil Nadu

SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: I would like to urge upon the Government to release various funds of centrally aided schemes due to Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Education Department has not received Rs. 4,474 crore from the Centre under various schemes in the last few years. As a result many education schemes, had suffered as the State was denied Central funds on the ground of exhausting the budgetary allocations. The annual allocation is grossly inadequate. I request that this amount may at least be doubled this year. The Union Government has to pay arrears of Rs 1,312 crore for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) to Tamil Nadu. Under the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) Scheme an amount of Rs. 1,588 crore is due to be given to the State. I appeal to the Government to release all the funds due for Tamil Nadu without delay.

(Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth associated.)

3. Demand to remove Anomalies Existing in Various Pension Schemes Launched in Country

SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Government runs various types of Pension Schemes to provide economic and social security to different sections of the society. But, hurdles are coming in the way there also. The number of persons eligible for old age pension in Bihar is somewhat more than 43 lakhs. But, the Central Government wants to provide pensions to 29 lakh people only out of these. After all, on what grounds this pension will be provided to some people and will not be provided to some others? Government provides widow pensions to BPL families in the age group of 22, 30 and 35 years. Then, on what grounds those will be deprived who are 18 or more years old? There is discrepancy in the scheme for differently abled

people also. I demand the Government to remove these discrepancies in Pension Schemes and enlarge their scopes.

(Shrimati Kakhshan Perween, Dr. Anil Kumar Sahani, Shri Harivansh and Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh associated.)

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Secretary-General.

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**ERRATA TO THE SUPPLEMENT TO SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE
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Page No.	Line No.	Correction
38	17	read 'of the country' after 'economy'.